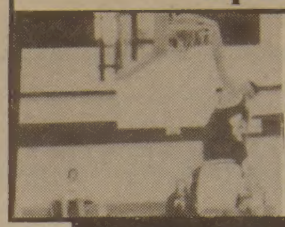
Spotlight on...

Blood donor clinic is a shot in the arm for the Canadian Red Cross. See Page 3.

Just say no!

Drug Awareness Week kicks off across Canada. See Page 7.

Sports



Knights go undefeated at the Niagara Invi - tational exhibition basketball tournament. Slam dunk! See Page 9.

NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
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Niagara News

Vol. 23, No. 5 Published by the Journalism-Print Program, Niagara College, Welland, Ont. Friday, Nov. 20, 1992 16 pages

For starving students

Financial aid organizes emergency fund

By ARLENE ARCH
Staff Writer

In this recession, people are digging deeper into their pockets searching for money that just isn't there. The phrase "spare change" doesn't apply.

For students struggling to pay for a much-needed education, times are even more difficult. This year, Niagara College received 2,600 Ontario Student Assistant Program applications.

Kathy Borisenko, financial aid officer at the college, says about 60 per cent of Niagara College students are on OSAP. And although OSAP assists and serves students, sometimes it just isn't enough.

When life delivers unexpected and unfortunate surprises to students, Niagara College is ready and willing to help with an emergency loan fund. It is available to students already on OSAP who suddenly face an emergency. However, getting the extra income sounds easier than it is.

"It is very difficult for students to receive the money," Borisenko says.

Money is given in only real emergency cases such as a student who is evicted from his home or is laid-off from work and can't find another job. No money is granted for child care, transportation, boarding and lodging.

Borisenko says the school does not feel these are emergency situations and that the individual should work those costs into their school budget.

"Students should be properly preparing financially to come to school," she says.

When an emergency occurs, a student must first fill out an application and have it co-signed to ensure payment. The amount received varies for each individual depending on their OSAP cheque. The money must be repaid within 90 days.

In addition to the emergency loan fund, Niagara College also provides promissory notes to students on OSAP to purchase school books.

Promissory notes can be picked up at the financial aid department after filling out a loan application. The student is investigated to make sure he is receiving money from OSAP. If a promissory note is granted, the student brings it to the bookstore where it is filled out by a member of the bookstore staff. A copy of the note is sent to the financial aid office.

The promissory notes are "very successful," Borisenko says. "They keep students away from the emergency loan fund."

Big Bear Hugs, not drugs

From left, Constable Don Ferguson of the Niagara Regional Police Force, Willy the drug awareness mascot, and Constable Mary-Lou Davidson of the Niagara Regional Police Force work together to inform the public about drug awareness week starting Nov. 16. See page 7.
Photo by Karen Kranjac

Food for friends

By KIM MORPHEW
Staff Writer

"Food for Friends", the new slogan for the student food bank, begins Nov. 30.

A one week food blitz will be held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3. The food drive will have collection boxes at various locations at the Welland campus, for example, near the mini-cafeteria, outside the library and in the Black Walnut building.

With four days to collect the donations and student volunteers to organize and bag, the group that organized the food bank Nov. 5, hopes to distribute the donated food during the week following the drive.

The organizers are hoping to distribute all the collections before the college closes for Christmas.

The group is hoping to make night school students aware of the drive. "You know there are 12,000 people here at night," said Larry Cote, an instructor in the School of Business Studies.

Donations should include non-perishables like peanut butter, rice, crackers, Kraft dinner, canned items and baby food. Previously some organizers thought donations of coupons and bags would help, but now decided to aim for food only.

The students involved in organizing the drive do not believe there will be a problem with those in need accepting help. The food will be made available through Brigitte Chiki in the counselling office.

U.W. raises $24,255

By LLOYD ABBS
Staff Writer

Niagara College has hit 97 per cent of its $25,000 United Way goal as of Wednesday. Through staff, Student Administrative Council contributions, Earth ball and staff dress down day events, $24,255 has been raised.

"I'm very pleased with the campaign," says Jon Ogryzlo, chairman of the United Way campaign at Niagara. "Now that the campaign has been extended, I believe we will achieve our $25,000 goal." He adds "it's very important for institutions like us who are doing well to contribute. With the recession, there are many people out there who need the services of the United Way."

Although the United Way campaign at the college has been extended to today for anyone who may want to contribute, the United Way fundraising is always open for anyone with a contribution. Donations can be sent to the United Way canvasser in your area or to Marlene Cain, Hennepin Hall, room H30 at the college.

African background draws interest

By HENRY MALUNDA
Staff Writer

I awaken one bright Saturday morning to gaze at the familiar Canadian sky disbelieving I am thousands of miles from home. The sky looks the same: the greenery under me, just like home, in Africa — and the corn fields the staple food in the sub-Saharan Africa.

What is it that makes me feel I am thousands of miles from home? Physically, there is very little in Welland, Ont. to suggest it. Along the streets, I look at the same ground-level buildings I left behind. The residences resemble those in my own home's suburban areas; the boredom, the lack of entertainment, scanty social gatherings, the incessant constitutional debate in the media, and later, the homesickness.

Next door, two children look at me with innocent curiosity. The little girl whispers to her brother, "He looks like one of my friends at school." I slowly flash a gentle, friendly, African smile and say, "hello." The two, surprised I can utter an English word, look at me curiously, and hesitant, glance at each other before scurrying back into their house.

I shake my head in exasperated despair and make a new entry into my diary.

Canadians have taken an unusual interest in my African background and have asked me amazing questions: so what does it feel like living in Canada, away from Africa? Deep down, I know the question. I know the type of Africa they have in mind, for, another one earlier approached me, asking, "Hey, man, so how do you people live in Africa? Are your highways, streets and avenues still in the trees?" It was meant to be a joke.

I honestly sympathize with Africa for its teeming natural and man-made disasters and the kind of picture the Western world has about this. I have lived in Africa for the past 33 years, my entire life. I have sampled a variety of African cultural experiences from the Atlantic coastal region, to the central eastern region along the Indian Ocean coast, to the southern region where Malawi, my country, is located.

One of the experiences that fascinates me here is that while I spent half of my secondary school geography classes studying about the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, the Welland Canal, the economic benefits of Niagara Falls to the Ontario region and the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, none of my Canadian counterparts can point out where Malawi is on the world map.

"Is that a city in South Africa?" "In which province is it?" "...Oh, I know, that's in Nigeria, eh?"

Probably not their fault. Western media coverage of Africa and the Third World has been crisis-oriented. Famine, tribal wars, political upheavals, plagues — it's as if that's all that's happening outside the so-called industrialized countries.

What does it feel like being in Canada? The impersonal interaction with the man on the street has made a great impression on my lifestyle. In Africa, you can watch a stranger turn into a friend almost at the first salutation. I have also been stunned by the extent to which individualism prevails almost unnoticed over communalism in the way of doing things.

The Canadian food habits, the social interaction in the academic circles, the education system, the daily constitutional wranglings, entertainment, religious features, all these cross-cultural experiences, and many more, will be the specific subjects of comparison and contrast in future columns.

ISA achieves objective at event

By HENRY MALUNDA
Staff Writer

More than $400 was raised at the first annual dinner-dance organized recently by the International Student Association, the association's treasurer, Amy Chen, announced to a meeting of the executive committee on Nov. 11.

"After deducting expenses on food and drinks, we're left with about $400 in profit," she said.

"We still have to re-sell empty bottles," said Dag Tesfaye, the association's president.

The association organized the dinner-dance in the college cafeteria on Halloween to introduce themselves to the college community, and as part of a series of slated fund-raising activities.

"There's no doubt we achieved all our objectives for the event," said Tesfaye.

A second dinner-dance is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12. Details of the event will be announced at a general assembly of the association to be held Saturday, in Hennepin Hall.

Christmas dinner-dance on agenda

The International Student Association is calling everyone to a general assembly in Hennepin Hall, Welland campus, on Saturday, Nov. 21. The meeting will be in room H21 at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda items include a proposed Christmas dinner-dance and an international sports day, both scheduled for early December.

All inquiries or suggestions should be addressed to Nicky Gumirato, the association's secretary, or to Dag Tesfaye, the president.

ISA sports day way of exchanging differences, sharing adjustments

By HENRY MALUNDA
Staff Writer

An international sports day, slated for Dec. 5, is an activity the International Students Association identified as a way of exchanging cultural experiences and sharing socio-academic adjustments in Canada.

Sports co-ordinator for the International Student Association, Kallol Chakraborty, announced events will be held in the Welland Campus gym on Saturday, Dec. 5. starting at 9:30 a.m.

"We're still considering the list of activities to be involved, but volleyball is one of them," he said.

Participants will pay $1 to enter all or any of the sports activities.

Want to improve your image around the college? Attend the Master Student seminar Thursday, Nov. 26, at 2:30 p.m., in S211. You don't have to be enrolled to attend or participate. In fact, you may bring a friend.

Kiss the Flame

Alcohol use can lead to drop in sex drive

By Henry J. Schankula
Director, Interorganizational Affairs
Addiction Research Foundation
Special to Niagara News

ALCOHOL AND SEX

Human beings are organisms driven by basic needs in life. Theorists have labelled these basic or primal needs. They include, the satisfaction of thirst, fulfilment of hunger, need for shelter from the cold, heat and other adverse elements of weather.

We want to be comfortable and satisfied. We want companionship, love, affection, caring, friendship. We need to trust others, to have another person care for what we think and feel.

We need stimulus in life. Human beings need to take risks to make us feel "alive." We need to gamble, to gamble in the stock market, to play the lottery, to feel the excitement of being just "out of control" enough to make the pulse pound. We search for that stimulus that turns us on enough to make existence interesting and not boring.

Sex is an important basic need. The need to reproduce ourselves is blending in a unique way in humans with the opportunity for repetitive, extremely pleasurable experiences.

We are also an animal species that deliberately indulges, usually risk-controlled, in the use of alcohol and other drugs. This way we act is significantly correlated with some extraordinary sexual behavior. Some studies identify that over 45 per cent of students report being sexually active after drinking or drug use when they might not otherwise have so desired. Studies report large percentages of unprotected sex and alcohol use. Even with the rather limited amount of research available concerning alcohol and drug use and sexual activity, conventional wisdom supports cautionary intimate behavior when associated with alcohol use.

Alcohol lowers inhibitions. We use alcohol in beverages to free us from constraints, to lubricate our social interactions and (some believe) skills. Alcohol provides some with a "licence" to be risky when they otherwise would not. This includes sexual, intimate activity. And all this is associated with impaired judgment just when sane, controlled thinking is needed.

Prolonged regular use of alcohol, even with young people, can cause a lack of sexual interest, and depression. Several studies report that both men and women feel sexually aroused when under the influence of alcohol. Both experience sexual dysfunction (can't "get it on") when inebriated. However, alcohol has a greater impact upon the male because of the need to achieve and maintain penile vaginal entry and ejaculatory capability. Alcohol use reduces male hormone production, and affects spermatogenesis, which may result in siring a defective child. Women using alcohol during a known or unknown pregnancy can damage a fetus under development.

If you decide to use alcohol, then you also need to learn, when too much is enough, and how to drink safely. Alcohol consumption and acquaintance rape are frequently associated, both by the victim and/or the perpetrator.

Alcohol use is frequently used as justification for sexual violence. Women's use of alcohol during dates often sends signals or cues to being "sexually available."

A simple behavioral separation rule, a concept used in drinking and driving, could apply here: Don't drink and have sex.

Housing forum successful

The first Accessible Housing Forum-Niagara was "very successful," says Penny Grossi, Community Development Co-ordinator for the Ontario March of Dimes.

A series of speeches and workshops conducted by representatives from government agencies, private firms, and the March of Dimes highlighted the day. The forum's theme was "Accessibility in Residential Housing."

Among the speakers was Linda Crabtree, who suffers from a neuromuscular disorder called Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. Crabtree designed a house in St. Catharines for her and her husband.

She showed slides of her home and told of the various special aspects of it, such as U-shaped handles on cupboards, 14 skylights, and extra-wide doorways. Also, she talked about the problems she had with various builders and suppliers when she told them some of the modifications her design required.

Another activity held during the day was a disability simulation where some able-bodied participants were placed in wheelchairs so they could experience for themselves the obstacles before the disabled. For those involved in the simulation, "it was a real eye-opener, "Grossi said.

Red Cross' dedication opens eyes to donating

By PATRICK ASELSTINE
Staff Writer

I must admit, until I recently found myself covering Niagara College's annual blood donor clinic for the Niagara News, I had never given much thought to the idea of donating blood.

However, because I thought it would be interesting to find out what was involved with organizing a blood donor clinic, I was enthused about the assignment.

While researching the Red Cross and its clinics at the college, I was supplied with a ton of information on topics such as the need and uses for blood, the requirements and restrictions for donating and the workings of the Red Cross. I was impressed, but I still hadn't considered donating blood.

After gathering my information, the slant of my story was that there is a shortage of blood in Canada so we must, as healthy people, be sure to donate. Suddenly I started to feel a little uneasy. I couldn't urge people to donate if I wasn't willing to do so myself. I know the quotes in my story weren't mine, but I did agree with them. I began to consider donating blood, but I left myself several escape routes.

The day of the clinic arrived and I still wasn't completely sold on the idea of donating blood. I went to the gymnasium and made note of the long, slow-moving lines. Hmmm...my time was a little too important to stand in line all day, I thought. I figured I would get a few pictures, talk to some people and I'd be outta there.

As I walked into the gym and witnessed my first blood clinic, I couldn't believe the flurry of activity. I was immediately impressed by the incredible precision and professionalism of the blood team and volunteers who operated the clinic. It instantly occurred to me that I could certainly spare whatever time it took to donate some blood, at least this one time.

It was slightly more than two hours before I was told I could leave, but the funny thing was I didn't want to. I was amazed, after the clinic, to watch the nurses and volunteers efficiently packing all the gear that is needed at a blood clinic. It reminded me of that old Jackson Browne song, the one about the roadies: *They're the first to come and the last to leave, working for that minimum wage.* The song goes on to mention how they would set it all up the next day in a town a million miles away from there and how, after becoming zombie-like, they would sometimes question why they even did it. On nights when the band sounded great they realized that their efforts were worthwile.

While similarities exist between music roadies and the Red Cross blood teams, there individual merits can't be compared. Saving a life is certainly more important to most of us than any type of music, no matter how good it is. It's just that that song really brought into focus, for me, the incredible, and sometimes thankless work the Red Cross and its volunteers perform.

After donating blood, I received a small sense of the feeling Red Cross workers must get from their hours of dedication - much like the roadies get when the band is really cooking and the light and sound equipment are working perfectly.

I urge anyone who is eligible but hasn't donated blood to familiarize themselves with the work the Red Cross does. Once you have witnessed the Red Cross and its volunteers in action, you will probably think, as I now do, that rather than something special, giving blood is the least you can do.

Negative publicity, controversy not a factor at blood clinic

260 staff, students support the Red Cross blood clinic

By PATRICK ASELSTINE
Staff Writer

Despite the recent negative publicity surrounding the Canadian Red Cross, Niagara College's annual blood donor clinic held on Monday received good support.

The Red Cross has recently found itself operating clinics amid controversy. Blood samples from donors who have recently received flu shots have been testing HIV-positive. It was also reported, in a study by a University of Calgary professor for Health and Welfare Canada, that prior to Nov. 4, 1985, at least 50 Canadians were infected with the AIDS virus from contaminated blood transfusions while the Canadian Red Cross waited to introduce a screening process. There was concern by Red Cross officials that the various stories would negatively affect the number of donors at the college's clinic.

"I was concerned about the effect of recent publicity and testing. Lots of students were asking. The number of donors indicate it didn't have a significant effect," said Jan Potton, vice-president of the Welland branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society and a psychology instructor at Niagara College.

In fact, the trend that saw the percentage of Niagara staff and students donating blood drop over the past few years was ended at this year's clinic. About 5.6 per cent, or 260 of the college's students donated this year - up slightly from 5.2 per cent, or 207 students last year. The 260 donors was a record for the college clinics. The figure compares favorably with other Red Cross clinics.

"With only five hours for a clinic, they (the Red Cross) say they're doing really well if they get 300 donations. We're really close to that," Potton said.

First-time donors (those you might expect to decide not to donate because of the publicity) were numerous at this year's clinic.

"I've worked here before. I must say there's been more first-time donors than in the past," said Edna Isenor, a volunteer from Fonthill who handed out Red Cross certificates and pins to first-time donors.

Most first-time donors had similar impressions of the experience.

"I wanted to see what it was like. It was easy," said Phil O'Charcin, a second-year Law and Security Administration student.

"The worst part was when they prick your finger. Giving blood was a piece of cake," said Craig Inglis, a first-year Computer Engineering Technology student.

While a large number donated for the first time, for many staff and students giving blood has become a habit.

"My brother gave blood and I always wanted to. As soon as I turned 17, I did," said Shannon Houston, second-year LASA student, six-time blood donor and the last person to donate at this year's clinic.

As in the past, students in the LASA and Ambulance and Emergency Care programs lead donations. LASA students donated 119 pints of blood while Ambulance and Emergency Care students donated 46 pints. LASA students also did the majority of the promotion, set-up and clean-up for the clinic.

"As usual, the first-year LASA students came through to give tremendous support, making the clinic successful," Potton said.

Although donors were required to wait up to two hours from the time they got into line until the time they were finished donating blood, the clinic was more efficiently organized than in past years.

"I'm really pleased with the way it was organized and so is the Red Cross. The crowd control - keeping people out in the hallway - served to help. People didn't get nervous watching others donate," Potton said.

The Red Cross clinics are operated by nurses from Hamilton's blood team along with local volunteers who travel throughout southern Ontario. The team had a clinic in Niagara Falls the day after the college's clinic.

The workers here were in agreement the clinic was "a success." They had few complaints.

"Oh, I think it was a very successful clinic. The students were very nice. I just wish they wouldn't roll up their questionnaires and mutilate them," said Dorothy Bird, a clinic assistant.

False test results endanger blood supplies

By PATRICK ASELSTINE
Staff Writer

Two potentially-damaging incidents have Canadian Red Cross officials worried about this winter's blood supply.

The Red Cross estimates that 1.7 per cent of donors who have had flu shots have had their blood falsely test positive for transmittable diseases, including the virus that causes AIDS.

"We're asking that anyone who has had a flu shot not give blood for six months. A small number (of blood from donors who have had flu shots) have reacted with the screening test," said Rosemary Cuhpik from the Welland branch of the Red Cross. "The tests are so sensitive they pick up serum that the flu shot contains."

If a donor's blood tests positive for transmittable diseases, the person's name will be permanently removed from the list of eligible donors. The Red Cross would rather risk a shortage of blood now than see someone needlessly become ineligible to donate in the future.

Blood clinic

There have been no false HIV tests in the area, including last month's donor clinic at Club Social in Welland, Cuhpik said.

"We don't know at this point what the impact will be," Michael Nichol, director of blood donor recruitment in Ottawa, said in an interview with Canadian Press. "It could be quite serious."

It was also reported last week that at least 50 Canadians were infected with the HIV virus from contaminated blood supplies prior to Nov. 4, 1985, when testing for the AIDS virus was implemented . A number of lawsuits have been filed against the Canadian Red Cross, the federal and provincial governments and private laboratories in the United States and Canada.

It doesn't appear the controversies have affected turnouts at area clinics. Monday's clinic at Niagara College had 260 donors, a good number for a five-hour clinic, said Jan Potton, vice-president of the Welland branch of the Red Cross and psychology intructor at Niagara College.

Red Cross officials are pleasantly surprised with the results of the clinics held in the past few weeks.

"Surprisingly we haven't had many calls from the public. I must confess, our collections seem to be strong. I guess it (the negative publicity) doesn't factor into people's support of the Red Cross," said Marty Green from the Toronto Blood Centre.

Jan Potton, psychology instructor at Niagara College and vice-president of the Welland branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, donates blood at the college's annual blood donor clinic on Monday. The clinic was successful with 260 staff and students donating blood.

Photo by Patrick Aselstine

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

David Irving deported repercussions to come

David Irving, a British author who says the Holocaust was greatly exaggerated, was finally deported from Canada. He claims the Nazi gas chambers were built after the Second World War to serve purely as a tourist attraction.

This cannot possibly be true. Irving says he was treated and tried unfairly because of his beliefs, but why does he consider himself wrongly accused? Everyone who visits Canada has the same rules regarding entry and when a departure notice is served they have the same amount of time as anyone else to leave the country.

Our court system has wasted enough of the taxpayers money trying Bambi and now Irving. Our court system is already behind and many people have lost their right to a speedy trial. Not only has our court been taken advantage of, but Irving has caused racial tension among different groups in Niagara Falls which already had its problems with gang related violence.

This issue of hate literature only lights a new flame for the gangs in Niagara Falls to use as their new motto to stir up more problems. Young teenagers who stand out as skinheads prominently display a Nazi swastika flag on their cars and jackets. That is just what Niagara Falls needs when it's already plagued by racial tensions! No one knows how long this controversy will continue, but with the deportation of Irving one can only expect to witness hate actions in Niagara Falls. Who knows? Maybe the cemeteries will be vandalized again or anti-Semitism will become a new source of entertainment.

It is impossible to honestly believe that a Jew's pain of the Holocaust didn't exist when they have such vivid and horrifying memories of something so real to them. It's just like telling someone that their childhood memories of picnics or cold tobogganing trips are just figments of their imaginations.

Karen Kranjac

Education 'coming up short' tools needed for the future

Education is one of our most precious commodities. It is our foundation on which to compete with the rest of the world.

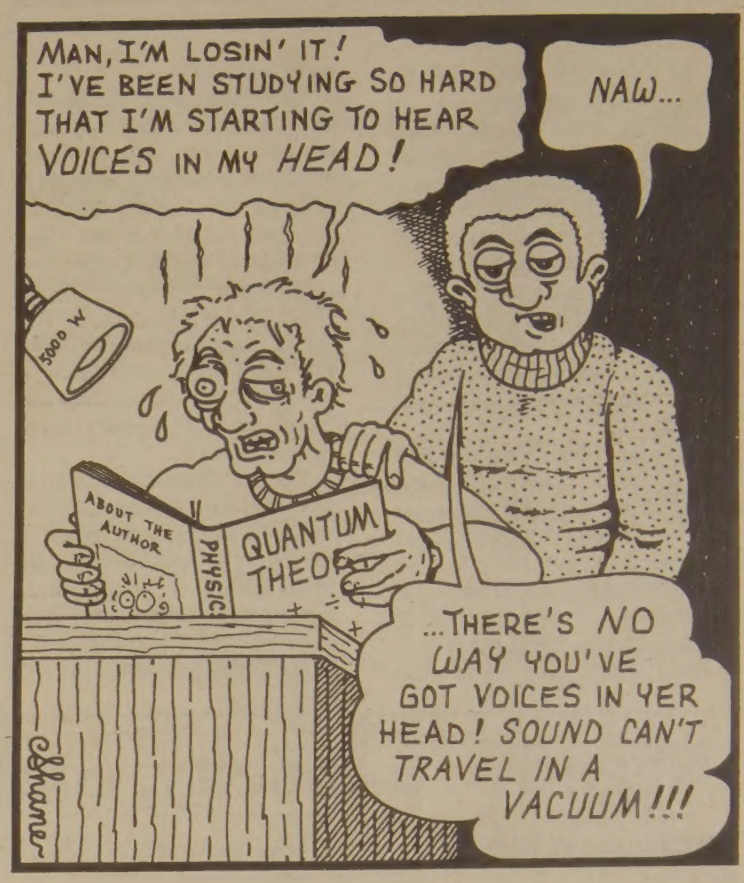
Jobs are becoming increasingly scarce in these dire financial straits. Students are clinging to the belief that a degree from a university or a diploma from college will guarantee a high paying job and fairy tale lifestyle. Unfortunately students are not equipped to function properly. Schools are struggling to meet changing times.

Instead of being helped, the Canadian educational system is fighting to survive with a lack of money supplied by all levels of government. Canada can be proud to have the second highest post-secondary participation rate in the world. Why is our government choking these institutions' ability to do what they were meant to do; teach? They are doing their best under the circumstances, but sadly, are coming up short.

Schools are taking flack to stay technologically current in today's society. Staying competitive costs money. We must be prepared to pay the proverbial price for this?

Students are suffering. It's fine for the powers that be to deliberate over our precarious position. They don't have to rush; they already have a job. The clock is ticking for us. If we are the future, give us the tools with which to do the job.

Duncan Warrener


MAN, I'M LOSIN' IT! I'VE BEEN STUDYING SO HARD THAT I'M STARTING TO HEAR VOICES IN MY HEAD!
NAW...
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
QUANTUM THEO
PHYSIC
...THERE'S NO WAY YOU'VE GOT VOICES IN YER HEAD! SOUND CAN'T TRAVEL IN A VACUUM!!!
Shamer

Help fight crime

Crime Stoppers works

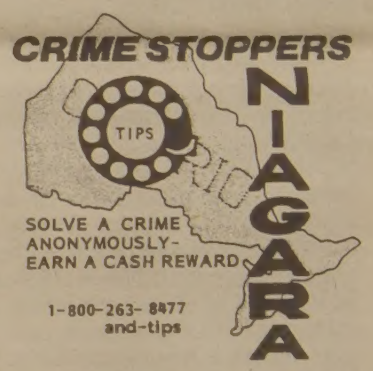
Automobile theft is a serious criminal matter and every year thousands of vehicles are stolen throughout Canada. This week, Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc. is looking for the public's assistance to help solve a local case.

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, 1992 at approximately 8:15 p.m., a St. Catharines resident had returned from a shopping trip and parked her vehicle in the tenant parking lot at 64 Roehampton Ave., St. Catharines.

Sometime after this, the vehicle, a 1987 Chevrolet Camaro, two-door, black, was taken from the lot by thieves. At approximately 1 p.m. the following day, the car was found by a St. Lawrence Seaway employee on Canal Bank Road east of Lock 6, Thorold.

The vehicle had been completely burned out and the fire was still smouldering.

It was apparent from the investigation that the culprit(s) used an accelerant on the interior of the car. All four wheels had been removed from the vehicle prior to setting it ablaze. The vehicle was valued at approximately $8,500.



If you have information regarding this auto theft, or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477, that's 1-800-AND-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000. In all cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.

The Niagara Regional Police in co-operation with Crime Stoppers Niagara Inc. writes this column to help combat crime. A citizen board administers the local program. Reward money is raised through tax -deductible donations and cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., P.O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 7A3.

Niagara News

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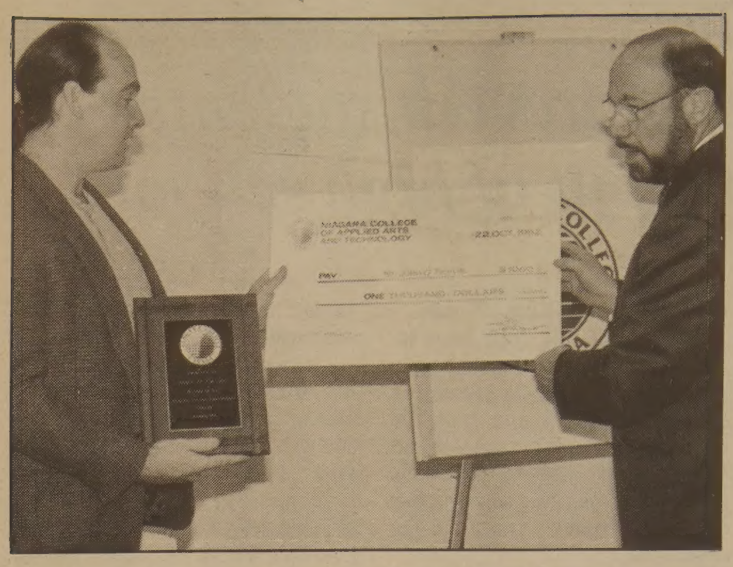
Letters Policy

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our letters to the Editor section. All letters must be received on the Thursday before publication week. Each letter must include the student's name, college identification number and program of study. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only. All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Rm. S212, Simcoe Building, Niagara College, P.O. Box 1005, Woodlawn Road, Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2.



College President John Saso right, presents a $1000 cheque to John Frame, winner of the Niagara College logo contest.
Photo by Nick Phillips

Search for new logo a case of Framework

By NICK PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

John Frame, 36, of Grimsby, the winner of the Niagara College Logo Search Contest, said his objective "was to keep the logo simple and to the point."

Frame's design was chosen out of 107 entries from residents throughout the Niagara Region as well as Niagara College students, staff and alumni.

He was presented with a $1,000 cheque and plaque by Niagara College president John Saso at a media conference held at the college Oct. 22.

His design is a graphic representation of Niagara Falls with the words Niagara College Canada encircling the design.

Frame's design will replace all other logos on the college's printed materials as they are re-ordered.

Frame works at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

ECE raffle raises cash, tunes for tots

By MARY LEMIEUX
Staff Writer

The Early Childhood Centre raised $769 from raffle tickets sold throughout the Week of the Child from Oct. 17 to 23. Proceeds will be used to buy a cassette player for the day care.

The draw winners were picked on Oct. 23 by Pat Eversden, manager of the centre.

Chrissy Giancola, the sister of an Early Childhood Education student, won the first prize, a gourmet basket.

Second prize was given to Monique Armstrong. Armstrong is the secretary for Sandy Fox, manager of Ancillary Operations. She was awarded dinner and wine for two at the Niagara College Hospitality and Tourism Centre on Dec. 2.

Jim Cupolo received the third prize. Jim is Barb Cupolo's husband, a staff member at the Early Childhood Centre. His prize was a Niagara College bookstore voucher valued at $25.

Niagara College's first alumni Homecoming reacquaints graduates, rekindling memories

By KIMBERLY SHEPPARD
Staff Writer

Memories are special events of one's life tucked away forever. A Homecoming invitation Oct. 24 offered Niagara College alumni the perfect forum to share those treasures.

Over 25 years Niagara College has seen over 22,000 students don their graduation caps and gowns. Some 100 alumni gathered at the Rose Villa in Welland to celebrate the college's first annual Homecoming.

Friendships were renewed, tales were told, memories were shared. Alumni from 1970 through 1992 spent the evening reminiscing about their years at Niagara. Bursts of laughter could be heard all over the banquet room throughout the evening.

Terry Miller and Stan Lesniewski, 1970 graduates from the Civil Engineering program, started laughing when one of them mentioned cows.

"Remember when we used to park in the farmer's field?" asked Miller. "The parking lot off Woodlawn Road was a field, we used to park in it. The catch: the farmer used to let his cows graze in it too. They would come right up to the car and stare at us through the windows." Lesniewski nodded, laughing, remembering.

Listening to original students, and others from the early years of the college, was educational in the contrasts. The college's history was recorded by those who lived it.

Through a quarter century of Niagara College's existence, there have been many changes.

Memories are forever

In 1967, three buildings housed the college; a bar wasn't one of them. Lesniewski couldn't believe alcohol was served on campus. "We used to go to the Rex Hotel downtown. It's not good to have it on campus at all. We had so much work to do that it was a treat to go out drinking once in a while. Now they can grab a beer between classes. I don't agree with that," he said.

The college's growth has caused many things to change. There are so many things offered to students now, according to Miller. He said he remembers getting some teams together to play hockey.

"We got six teams from different departments and went down to the Welland Arena. We rented the ice for a few hours when we had a few spares back-to-back. It was a lot of fun."

Over the years, courses have come and gone, students have too, but the memories are forever.

News tips call
735-2211
extension 7750

NIAGARA SPEAKS

Do you think a food bank would be beneficial to the college ?

Gina Learning

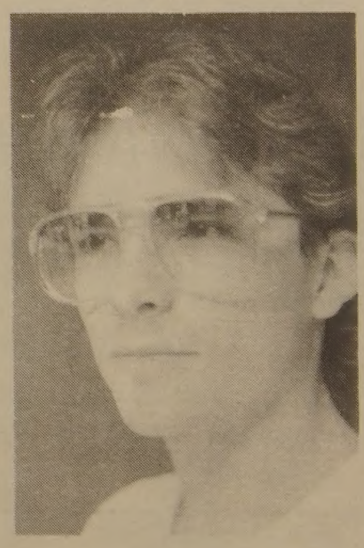
"My husband and I are involved in donating food to many food banks. I think a food bank at the school would be a great idea," said Gina Learning, 28, a first-year dental assistant student.

John Bell

"I think it's a good idea to have a food bank here because a lot of students run into rough times during the year. If worse came to worse I'd use it. I think most people feel that way," said John Bell, 19, a first-year journalism-print student.

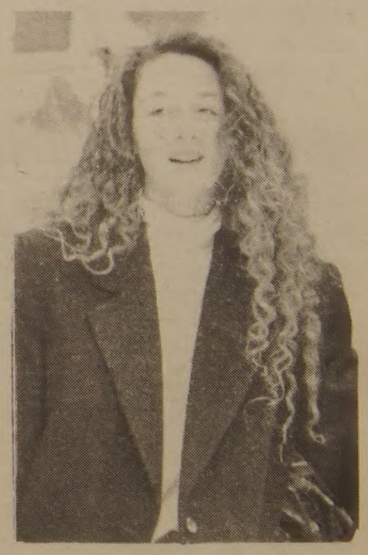
Shannon Goba-Marr

Shannon Goba-Marr, a first-year law and security administration student, said, "I think we need it here because there's a lot of students unemployed. They can't get the part-time work to subsidize their income and the government isn't giving out as much money as they used to."



Shane Lickers

First-year visual arts student Shane Lickers, 25, said, "I think it's a good idea. If I thought I needed it I would use it. From what I've seen in my own program, there are a lot of people having a tough time of it."



Juliette Hirheiter

Juliette Hirheiter, 20, a second-year fashion merchandising student said, "It's bad enough how expensive school is, you shouldn't have to also worry about paying for food."

Niagara Speaks is written from the files of Karla Schindel, Brian Lafantaisie and Darren Esau

Where's the fire?

Welland firefighters prepare to leave Niagara College's Welland campus after responding to an alarm at After Hours Nov. 10. The alarm was triggered by exhaust flumes from a parked beer truck. Students were evacuated from the building for approximately 30 minutes until the fumes dissipated.

Photo by Duncan Warrener

Onside Mentoring Project

Project aims to prevent students from dropping out of high school

By DARREN ESAU
Staff Writer

The number of students dropping out of school has caused concern and forced the community to take a different approach aimed at encouraging young people to acquire a high school diploma.

The Niagara Peninsula Industry Education Council is working on a solution. The Onside Mentoring Project is aimed at keeping students in school and giving them a desire to complete their education.

Three out of 10 Canadian students leave school before receiving a diploma, says a research report by the Onside Mentoring Project. At this rate, one million young people will drop out of school in the 1990s.

These statistics also show that in the next decade 64 per cent of jobs created will require more than 12 years of education, while one half will require more than 17 years.

This means big steps must be taken to keep high school students in school. The Onside Mentoring Project allows anyone from the community who is personable and who has good communication skills to be part of this program which is aimed at keeping students in the classroom.

Carl Jones, a volunteer mentor involved in a co-op program with Niagara College, says, "it is not necessary that a mentor has a Grade 12 education, but they must realize the value of an education."

As a mentor, the individual is required to spend at least one hour each week with their assigned student for the remainder of the school year. The mentor is encouraged to develop an ongoing relationship with the student and just as importantly must be willing to listen, give advice, and act as a role model to the student.

Jones said a mentor must realize that students need someone who will be a non-judgmental listener and who will not criticize them. He said a lot of these young people have never been in a trusting relationship with an adult before and therefore would welcome a friend who would accept them for who they are.

To become a mentor, it is required that the person fill out an application concerning the program.

If anyone is interested in helping high school students prepare for the future, contact Barry Cowell, Niagara Peninsula Industry Education Council, 3550 Schmon Pkwy., Unit Four, First Floor, Thorold, Ont.; call (416) 684-2115, or if in Welland 384-2057.

College participates in research to create student program guide

By ROGER STROOP
Staff Writer

Niagara College is one of 25 Ontario post-secondary institutions participating in research that will result in the publication of a guide for students making decisions about college courses.

This guide, called Program Demands Analysis, will outline "the physical, cognitive and time demands for any student in any program in any college in Ontario," says Special Needs Assistant Caroline Gruhl, who is handling Niagara's contribution to the project.

Students will be able to use the guide to find out if the demands of a program are within their physical and mental capabilities. For example, if someone wants to become an ambulance attendant but has a chronic back problem, he or she can look in the guide, and it will tell them how physically demanding the required courses will be, Gruhl said.

The guide will help students "make a better judgment as to what program they want to take at the college," she added.

The research for the guide is being gathered through forms given to administrators of various college programs. The forms list various physical, difficulty and time aspects, and the administrators are asked to rate the applicability of each aspect to their course on a scale of zero to five. The Alberta consulting firm in charge of the project required a year to formulate these forms, said Gruhl.

Each of the 25 institutions has been given two programs to survey. The ones being done at Niagara are Ambulance-Emergency Care and Horticultural Technician, "because these programs aren't available at all colleges in Ontario," Gruhl said.

Once the material from these programs is gathered, it will be sent to the consulting firm. There is no projected date of publication, but Gruhl does not expect to see it for a while, since there are only 50 programs being surveyed this year, and there are more than that number available at Niagara alone.

Entrepreneurship: A way of life and a way of thinking

By DENNIS FAST
Staff Writer

Niagara College will be offering two new courses in January called Introduction to Entrepreneurship. The courses will be integrated into the General College program, but have already been added to the Sales and Retail program.

"Usually people think of entrepreneurship as someone wanting to start their own business . . . and that isn't entrepreneurship," said Clara Casucci-McLeod, director of Business Studies.

"Entrepreneurship is a way of thinking, a way of life."

Dave Taylor, co-ordinator of International Trade and Marketing Management at the college, said anyone, whether it be a nurse or someone who is in business, can be an entrepreneur.

Taylor and Casucci-McLeod said entrepreneurship has to do with how people solve problems and how people look at themselves.

"Hopefully, this course will be integrated into more programs," said Taylor.

Former college volleyball star now serves beers, not aces

By FRANK IUDICIANI
Staff Writer

He has gone from serving aces on the volleyball court to serving beers in a bar.

Fernando Colavecchia, last year's men's volleyball MVP, is slowly becoming a star off the court and in the business world.

He led the men's varsity volleyball team to a championship last year averaging 20 kills a game. He dominated play from his power positon and intimidated opponents with his six-foot five-inch frame and long reach over the net. For his accomplishments on the court, he recieved a scholastic scholarship from the college.

During his rare spare time, Colavecchia coaches the junior volleyball team at Westlane Secondary in Niagara Falls. "It's good exercise and I like working with kids," he said. His future goal is to become a head coach at a college or university.

Colavecchia, 22, is now operating The Wild Mushroom Bar and Grill in Niagara Falls. He spends an average of 60 hours a week in the bar and is a jack of all trades when it comes to the labor part of the business. On a normal day, he bartends, waiters, and cooks. "It's our first year so we try to keep our overhead low," he said.

"Dedication is the key to success."

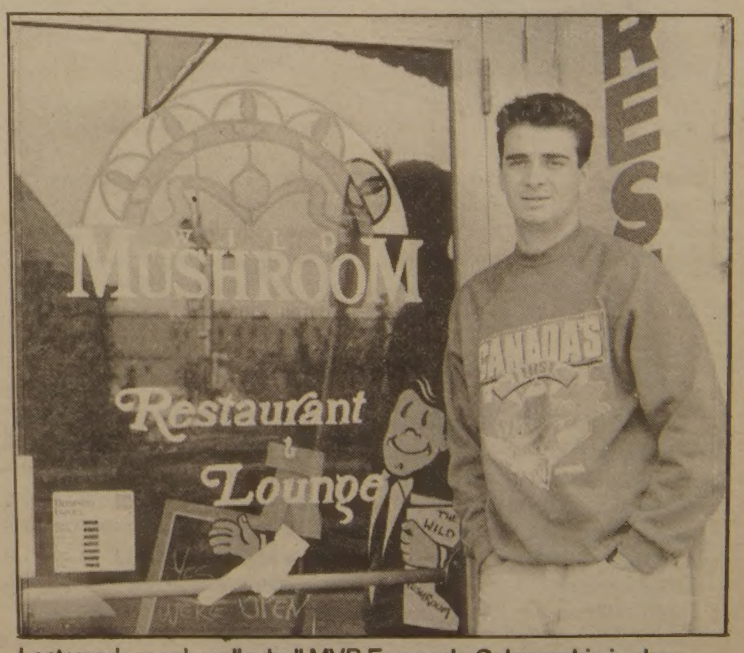
Many of Colavecchia's former classmates are out of work so he felt that "self-employment was the way to go right now." He graduated from the Business Administration program and believes a lot of the final year prepared him for operating the business. "Dedication is the key to success," he said.

He has seen a constant decline in business during his first year of operations. "Having worked in the tourist area for the last 10 years, the last three have been consistently slow and completely different from five years ago," he said.

Denis Santin, Colavecchia's working partner, says "Fern has good business sense and is dedicated to the business."

The pair would like to open another restaurant away from the tourist area when the economy improves. "It's hard to keep a regular clientele because of the many tourists coming in and out of the bar," Colavecchia said.

The bar's decor creates a casual and relaxing atmosphere for its customers. A fireplace adjacent to the bar creates a nice blend with the old wood beams supporting the bar. Sports fans are not left out in cold as there are five television screens with constant sporting events on all day. "We try to promote the winning teams and get their fans in the bar," he said.



Last year's men's volleyball MVP Fernando Colavecchia is slowly becoming a star off the court and in the business world.

Photo by Frank Iudiciani

Regional Chairman Brian Merrett raises a "Believe in Yourself — Be Drug Free" flag to promote drug awareness.

Photo by Karen Kranjac

Drug free children result of parenting

By JENNIFER HERR
Staff Writer

Positive parenting is the key to raising "drug resilient" children. That's the message for this year's Drug Awareness Week from Nov. 15 to 21.

A kickoff luncheon was held Monday at the Niagara Region headquarters.

This year's activities are aimed at "preventing addiction and promoting wellness and health in Niagara Region," says Gary Zalot, executive director of the Niagara District Health Council.

The main target audience for Drug Awareness Week is the segment of society that plays the most important role in influencing children. Instead of targetting peer groups, societal groups such as parents, teachers and clergy are being asked to form a partnership to help provide positive role models to children in terms of drug and alcohol use.

"Kids are watching us for cues on how to handle drugs and alcohol," says Mark Taylor, president of the Addiction Research Foundation.

The week is also aimed at promoting dialogue between adults and youngsters in order to reduce the risk of drug and alcohol addiction.

"We all want to protect our kids from the bad things...what we have to do is help them handle the bad stuff and to bounce back," says Taylor.

Toward that goal, Karen Ferruccio, regional manager of the Addiction Research Foundation, central south region, and acting chair of the Niagara Drug Awareness Week Planning Committee, established a program involving one minute discussion-starter tapes. Most of the skits on these tapes were written and acted out by students stating their concerns about drug awareness. The tapes were supplied by Majestic Sound Warehouse, and were distributed to schools across Ontario to be played after announcements during this week.

Drug Awareness Week is also being recognized at Niagara College.

Heather Hodgson, an instructor in the Law and Security Administration program at the college, said guest speakers and contests will be sponsored throughout the week to promote greater substance abuse awareness. Prizes have been donated from organizations, stores and companies from the area. About $1,500 in donations have been made toward the competition.

Focus of new program is to minimize waste

By KIM MORPHEW
Staff Writer

A 32-week Waste Management Co-ordinator program is available at Niagara College. It began Oct. 19.

Prerequisite is a university or college degree or a minimum of five years work experience in the field.

The program was established following a study last winter identifying business needs. More than 400 employers were surveyed. Results showed the most important skills to employers included communication, management and dealing with legislative requirements. Focus in this program is on allowing the graduate to minimize waste, promote options for businesses, and deal with government agencies.

Niagara Industrial Training Advisory Corporation (NITAC), funded by Employment and Immigration Canada and the Ministry of Skills Development, has purchased 16 seats in the new program. All 16 spots are filled.

There are 12 faculty for the 16 courses in the program. The part-time instructors are employed in the environmental field which will give students the latest knowledge.

The list of courses includes waste minimization, environmental analysis, hazardous material and total quality environmental management.

Of the program's 32 weeks, six are a work term. Consultant Tony Barrett will contact potential work term employers so that students will be placed.

"I think it's unique in Canada," said Jon Ogryzlo, general manager of the Centre for Environmental Training.

Ogryzlo said most environmental employees in the field now are experts in more than one area. "In business and industry you usually wear more than one hat."

Although employers predict a growth in the job market, most are not prepared to hire new staff. Most prefer to upgrade the education of present employees.

The Waste Co-ordinator program is a pilot project to an Environmental Management program slated to start next fall.

Smokers may get a designated lounge

By SUE HARVEY
Staff Writer

Smokers might be getting a break.

The College Council earlier this week passed a motion that might see the Tecumseh Lounge, or any other suitable room, converted into a smoking room.

Costs for converting such a room will be examined.

"Problems are not nearly overt as last year," said Carol Boettcher, vice president of Student Life and Human Resources. However, she said other alternatives to a smoking room still exist such as putting alarms on the outside doors or hiring a security person to patrol the school during the winter months.

Albert Cipryk, a Niagara College instructor, said council would be creating a monster if they put a place on the Welland campus and not at the other campuses.

The only place where smoking is permitted at the college is in After Hours.

Bulletin boards decorate hallways and teach students display skills

By ROGER STROOP
Staff Writer

In almost every hallway, they're there. Bright, eye-catching displays bearing slogans like "TUNE IN," "TAKE A CLOSER LOOK," and "DIP INTO INFO."

These displays have sprung up around the school every year for almost 20 years. They're a fact of Niagara College life.

But where do they come from?

These bulletin boards are more than just attractive creations meant to enhance the school's decor. They are, in fact, marked assignments by the first-year students of the Education Resource-Special Needs program.

The boards are the very first assignment the first-year students are given, says Elvira Lucas, ERSN co-ordinator.

The purpose of having the students make the boards, Lucas says, is "to teach the various principles of constructing good displays." Among these are color combinations, measuring, and cutting and pasting.

"These are all things that, no matter what (the students) do on their placement, they have to keep in mind," she said. They may not have to do board displays, but they will likely be asked to make things such as activity centres, remedial games, and flash cards. The skills the students learn doing the bulletin boards can be applied to those tasks.

While working on the boards, students must also learn resourcefulness, creativity and problem solving, Lucas said.

Some of the boards hold general information, while others are centered on one office or faculty. An example of the latter is the board outside the Special Needs Office, which was made by students Cathy Turmaine and Carol Wilkinson.

The board is a replica of the solar system made with pins, styrofoam and computer wire, with photographs of different services provided by the Special Needs Office around it.

The sun, the centre of the universe, symbolizes the Special Needs Office, Wilkinson said, and the surrounding planets are meant to show that there are "no limits where you can go."

Putting together these boards is a time-consuming undertaking.

"It takes our students a minimum of 20 to 30 hours to do a display," Lucas says. All boards were made on the students' own time.

Because so much time and effort is put into the displays, it is frustrating for the students when the boards are defaced.

"(Other students) don't realize the work that goes into it," Turmaine said. "They move this here and they move that there and they just don't care."

"It's pretty disappointing, after we put all that work into it," said Doreen Lawrie. The "Where's Waldo?" Continuing Education board that she and classmate Mary Watson made was damaged when someone removed Waldo's head.

"It took a long time to make," Lawrie said. "We had to borrow the glasses from a friend of ours, and we had to turn around and tell her they were gone."

"We were just lucky it was (already) marked."

Not only does the board-making process take time, it is also challenging to the students in other ways. For one thing, they have to deal with the fact that the first assignment they do at their new school is something that will be seen by everyone on campus.

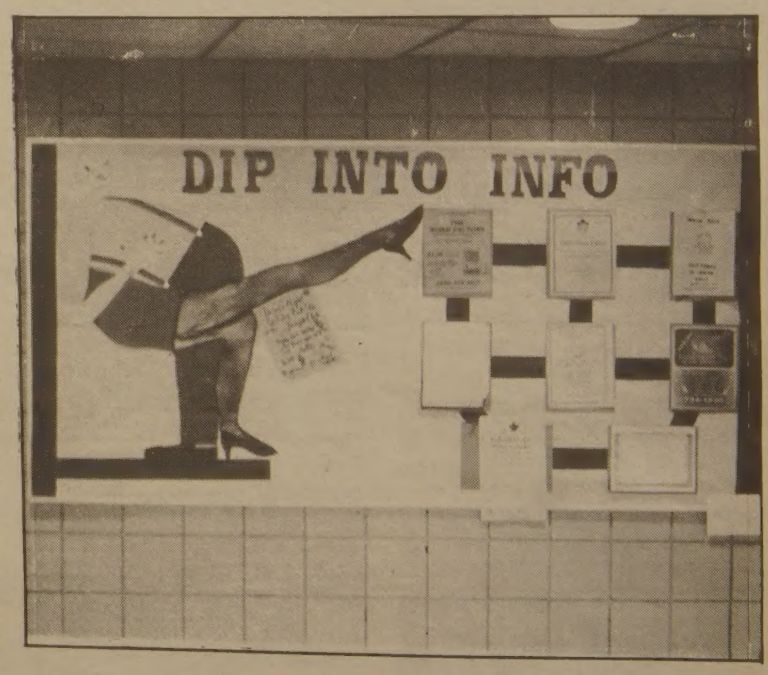
"It's a very shocking experience for them at first," Lucas says, especially for those students in the program who are returning to school after several years.

Another challenge the students face is the detailed artistic work that has to be done on the boards. Artistic ability is not a criteria for entering the ERSN program, so for many students, this sort of work does not come naturally.

Despite these things, Lucas says the display assignment is "usually an experience students remember. They find it challenging, but they're usually extremely pleased with their results."

And, she adds, this year, "the marks have been exceptionally good."

The ERSN displays. They're a small part of the course curriculum, but they're definitely the most visible one. The school wouldn't be the same without them.



This display outside the Hamilton Room, made by ERSN students Melissa Thomas and Sam Allison, is one example of the bulletin boards done as first-year assignments for the program.

Photo by Roger Stroop

ENTERTAINMENT

R.E.M.'s weirdest offering, Automatic for the People

By NICK PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

There is something strange going on in the minds of R.E.M. these days.

For a band which forecasted a louder, harder-driven album, "Automatic For The People" their eighth release, remains quieter, moodier, and weirder than anything they've put out in the past.

It was rumored the band had compiled a ton of songs for the album. When the time came to record, they layed down the quietest ones.

"The songs just came out sounding that way, so we decided to go with it," said guitarist Peter Buck recently in a Melody Maker magazine interview. Buck has described "Automatic For The People" as "our best record" although not necessarily their most commercial.

R.E.M.'s last album, "Out of Time," a $10-million seller, put the band over the top, outselling its predecessors Green and Document. The release of "Out of Time", with songs like "Losing My Religion" and "Shiny Happy People", embraced the Top 40 market and established the band in the commercial market.

With the success the band has enjoyed in the 1990's, they now find themselves in the position to do anything they want, and with "Automatic For The People," that's just what they did.

"Drive", the opening track and first single release, begins with a D-minor guitar cord that creeps in and out of the verses throughout the song. The lyrics "Hey kids rock and roll, nobody tells you what to do, baby," offer a stream of suggestions.

"Try Not To Breathe," a beautiful song with melodic cord progressions and time signatures, rings a familiar sound of traditional folk influences that's been evident in rock music today. The song is written from the perspective of an old man longing for the experience of death.

"The Sidewinder Sleeps Tonight," the obvious next single, is one of three up-beat songs that surface from this album. Although the chorus is undecipherable, the hook is strong.

"Everybody Hurts" is the masterpiece from "Automatic." Michael Stipe's vocals are at his best and at times more moving and intense than ever. The string accompaniment blends in perfectly with the gentle progression of the song.

Other highlights from "Automatic" are "Monty Got A Raw Deal" and "Man On The Moon." Both songs, as with the other 12 on the album, show the growth and maturity R.E.M. as songwriters, have achieved in the 1990's.

In region

A new alternative

By BRANDON BAIN
Staff Writer

Hypnotic Bidets is a strange name for a band. Even stranger though, is the fact a good alternative band has come from the Niagara region.

The band began in 1987 but split up due to immaturity. The four member group rejoined about two years ago with a new guitar player, Al Mcartney.

"We've played about 20, 25 shows, mostly in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, London and Hamilton," Mcartney said.

"Playing with Dogpyle at the Cave (in St. Catharines) was our worst show. Everything that could go wrong went wrong."

The band has released a professional-sounding six-song demo.

"We did the recording at a music conservatory," Mcartney said. "Our bass player's girlfriend taught there. The guy that owns the studio said we could use it on a weekend for free."

Of the six songs, five are studio songs and one is a live song. Some of the song titles include "Worshipping the Lava Lamp", "Plight of the Bumble Bee" and "Make 'em Bleed". The one live song is called "God's Lick".

"God's Lick is about our singer who was seeing this girl. Her mom was a real religious person and hated him," Mcartney said. "Rob lended this girl one of his Salvador Dali books to look through. Her mother got a hold of it and wrote him a nasty letter on the inside saying that he was Satan and he was going to hell."

The Niagara alternative music scene is starting to grow. More bands are playing and doing original material exclusively.

Although there are more bands than last year, Mcartney said he isn't pleased with the progress.

"It sucks. . . There are more bands coming out now, more than I thought there were. It's because of Jerry's Alley (in St. Catharines) anybody can play there. It's totally cool, real relaxed. These bands have probably always been around but never had a place to play."

Hypnotic Bidets' new six-song demo is called "Rinse" and is available at their shows and in Niagara region stores.

Better Days still ahead for THE BOSS after stellar performance at Skydome

By FRANK IUDICIANI
Staff Writer

Bruce Springsteen left no doubt in the minds of 24,000 screaming fans at SkyDome on Nov. 6 that he's still THE BOSS when it comes to concert performances.

Springsteen treated the sold-out audience to a clever mix of new and old tunes. The first half consisted of mostly new songs such as Better Days, Lucky Town, and 57 Channels. However, he didn't disappoint his longtime fans as he added old hits such as Spirits in the Night and Atlantic City to the mix.

The absence of the BIG MAN (Clarence Clemons) on the saxophone didn't affect the music as most thought it would. Springsteen substituted the guitar and lost little of the sound quality. He played his trademark telecaster guitar with great precision, never missing a beat.

His second half performance was very high tempo. Performing songs such as Leap of Faith, Born in the USA, and Roll of the Dice brought the crowd to their feet begging for more. And Springsteen didn't disappoint.

He played a 50-minute encore with the highlight being a 15-minute non-stop rendition of the 1984 hit Glory Days. It was vintage Springsteen. He danced in and out of the aisles, slapping high-fives with his fans. The crowd became ecstatic when THE BOSS congratulated the Blue Jays on their World Series victory, donning a Blue Jay cap.

Many critics contend the 43-year-old Springsteen had come to the end of the road. But after this stellar performance, Better Days are still ahead for THE BOSS.

Death master back in 'The Killing Man' author Mickey Spillane's deadly as ever

By DON LONGMUIR
Staff Writer

"I couldn't play it smart. I had to explode and rammed through the door ready to blow somebody into a death full of flying parts . . ."

And so starts the newest Mickey Spillane book entitled *The Killing Man*.

Make way Howard Engel because the death dealing master is back as strong, as vengeful, as deadly as ever.

From the first moment readers pick up the book to the moment it's kicked across the room, readers will experience every gut-wrenching feeling Spillane portrays in his first Mike Hammer novel in 19 years.

The Killing Man is cut from the same mold as such classics as *I, the Jury, Survival . . . Zero*, and *The Girl Hunters*.

Once again Hammer finds himself full of pain, anger and madness looking for a body, anybody to punch a hole in with his .45. Already his beautiful secretary, Velda, has had her head dented and there's a John Doe dead in Hammer's office.

The only clues are the dead man's lopped off fingers and a note that says,"I kill you for killing me," that is tagged nice and neatly to the dead man's forehead with an ice pick.

The story continues with bodies coming up everywhere with Hammer tagging a few of his own. It ends with a twist readers expect a Hammer novel to end with, punctuating every sentence with a powered punch explosion.

But don't stop there in commerating the 40th anniversary of the first Mike Hammer novel. Readers can enjoy the republication of six of Spillane's best. The art work on the covers will intrigue readers as much as the art work inside. Remember it's never too late to become a Hammer fan.

The following six books by Spillane have been republished: *Kiss Me Deadly; One Lonely Night; The Big Kill; Vengeance is Mine; My Gun is Quick* and *I, the Jury*.

Definition of love may be 'Closer Than Ever'

By KIMBERLY SHEPPARD
Staff Writer

Relationships.

What makes or breaks them? Why do some work and others don't? What is love? These are some of the questions the musical Closer Than Ever attempts to answer.

This upbeat musical review stopped at Brock Playhouse in St. Catharines for two shows on Oct. 28 and 29. It opened to an almost full house.

Closer Than Ever is a collection of songs about life, love, divorce, remarriage and children. Every song touches someone, somehow.

'from break-ups to marriage, love affairs to living alone'

The audience response to the songs' content was warm. Some of the musical numbers tugged at the heart strings while others elicited bursts of laughter.

Such songs as You Want to be Just Friends? and Miss Byrd were accompanied by peels of laughter. Patterns and If I Sing were powerful, making one stop and think about things.

The strong lyrics, written by Richard Maltby Jr., combined with the musical prowess of David Shire, brought the musical's four characters to life. There was no complicated set or lighting design to distract the audience. A scrim was used as a backdrop, a free-standing door occupied the middle of the stage, and the orchestra completed the set.

The songs took the audience on a journey through life and love. They touched on every subject that may arise in a relationship, from breakups to marriage, love affairs to living alone.

Each cast member had incredible stage presence and a strong voice. Sometimes the piano accompaniment overpowered the women's voices, but only once or twice. Ruth Nichol, one of the women, hit a few notes difficult for the audience to hear, but overall her voice was quite commanding.

Closer Than Ever has been touring Ontario since the beginning of October. The company was formed specifically for the tour. The show will be in the Oakville area in two weeks. For information call 416-348-0628.

SPORTS

Niagara's Frank Keltos (#40) puts up a shot during the Niagara Invitational basketball tournament while Scott Currie (#33) and Paul Grummett wait for the rebound.

Photo by Rick Kinzel

It's showtime as basketball team victorious in Niagara Invitational

By RICK KINZEL
Staff Writer

You've heard of the Los Angeles Lakers and showtime at the forum.

There was a Niagara College version of showtime two weeks ago when the Knights went undefeated at the Niagara Invitational exhibition basketball tournament.

Niagara finished 3-0 beating Scarborough 86-42, Erindale 87-71and Loyalist College of Belleville 82-66. Scarborough and Erindale are both colleges within the University of Toronto.

The Loyalist game was highlighted by two baskets late in the game. Niagara's Merv Wrighton had the first on a break away. The second came after a Loyalist turnover. Chris Breen provided the lob pass which Paul Grummett used to complete the alley-oop play. The Knights finished the game eight of 12 from the foul line.

Scott Currie of Niagara led all scorers with 20 points, while Grummett finished with 18 and Wrighton had 10.

Against Erindale, Currie had 21 points, including a three-point play late in the game. The Knights had a three-point lead at the half and opened it up in the second half.

Frank Keltos had 18 points, while Rick Sinclair and Grummett had 14 points, Muchtar Ganiefe had 12, Jeff Allen had six and Cam Bell had two points against Erindale.

In the win against Scarborough, Currie again led the Knights with 14 points, Sinclair and Grummett each had 11 and Wrighton and Dan Macnab each had eight.

Loyalist finished the tournament with a 2-1 record. Scarborough finished 1-2 beating Erindale 85-82 in overtime. Erindale had to finish the game with three players because of foul trouble. Erindale finished 0-3.

Niagara's next game is at home tonight against Sir Sandford Fleming from Peterborough at 7 p.m.

Men's basketball team splits two games on the weekend as Knights season begins

By RICK KINZEL
Staff Writer

The Niagara College men's basketball team started their regular season last weekend on the road, splitting two games.

The Knights defeated Sault College 86-72 in Sault Ste. Marie Saturday after losing 91-86 to Cambrian College in Sudbury on Friday.

In the win against Sault College, the Knights were led by Paul Grummett with 21 points and Merv Wrighton with 16 points. Others scorers included Scott Currie with 14 points, Jeff Allen and Rick Sinclair with 11, Muchtar Ganiefi with seven, Wendell Minty with three points and Frank Keltos with two points.

In the loss against Cambrian, Currie had 20 points, Keltos had 15 points, Sinclair 14, Paul Grummett 11, Allen 10, Ganiefi eight and Wrighton six.

Niagara's home opener of the regular season is 7 p.m. tonight at the Welland Campus.

'Mental errors' kill V-ball Knights

By FRANK IUDICIANI
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team lost their first match of the young season to Redeemer College in Ancaster three games to one on Nov. 11.

The Knights got off to a slow start in the first game and fell behind 10-3. However, they fought back and won the game 15-13.

In the second game, the Knights took a commanding 5-0 lead but saw it evaporate as Redeemer stormed back to win the game 15-8.

"We made too many mental errors," said Knights' coach Ray Sarkis. "We blocked without any intensity."

Redeemer broke out to a quick 9-2 lead in game three but allowed Niagara to mount a small comeback before eventually prevailing to win the game 15-8.

"A lot of the guys' timing was off and their spikes were hitting the net," Sarkis said.

The Knights were never in the fourth game and it showed on the scoreboard as Redeemer won 15-2 to take the match.

"We gave them the match," Sarkis said. "There's no reason why we shouldn't have beat them. It was just a bad night."

Jim Konrad led the Knights offensively with 11 kills while Greg Heyder was not far behind with 10. Brent Roszell, Gary Fraser, and Brian Dekker added eight, seven, and four kills respectively.

The Knights made only 10 blocks in the match as Roszell and Heyder led the way with three apiece.

"The outside guys are not blocking enough and we'll work on that in practice," Sarkis said.

In Ancaster

Volleyball Knights prove to be road warriors with season opening win

By FRANK IUDICIANI
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's volleyball team opened their season on a strong note defeating Redeemer College in Ancaster three games to one Nov. 11.

The lady Knights started the match off slowly and were easily defeated in their first game15-5.

However, they bounced back and held off Redeemer to win the second game 16-14.

"Redeemer is always hard competition but the girls hung in there," Knights' coach Judy Halaiko said.

The Knights took a commanding 11-2 lead in the third game, but allowed Redeemer to mount a comeback. Niagara won 15-13.

"It was important to beat them in their own building," Halaiko said. "We've only beat them once in the last six years."

Niagara ended the match in game four as they frustrated their opponents and easily won 15-5.

"Everybody had a job to do and did it," Halaiko said. "The girls stuck together and played as a team."

The lady Knights played Mohawk College from Hamilton last night at home. The team's next home game is Saturday, Nov. 28 at noon. They host Lambton College from Sarnia.

Curling: You will be sorry if you 'skip' this season

By KIMBERLY SHEPPARD
Staff Writer

There it is, a sheet of glaring white ice on the other side of the recently shined windows. It's waiting for the players to heed its call. The door opens. The players are greeted with a rush of crisp, cold air. They smell the freshly pebbled ice. They can see their breath as they step through the door. It's a long way to the other end.

The players limber up by stretching muscles they haven't used in quite a while. The pain is apparent by the contortions on their faces as each knee bend sends another message to their brain — it hurts — and there's more to come.

Dragging the 40-pound granite rock to the hack, two stubs of soft rubber protruding from the ice, is the challenge. The first attempt is unsuccessful. More effort is required, the surprised player remembers.

Squatting tensely in the hack, the first player looks to the other end. Concentration furrows his brow, a little nod to acknowledge the shot that is desired. Flipping the rock up he roughly brushes away any microscopic debris that may have gathered on the bottom, hindering the shot.

It's time. He draws the round,cold granite back and gracefully pushes himself onto the ice. Sliding, arm outstretched pushing the rock ahead he hesitates-indecision, what turn, in or out, on the broom or off-he second-guesses his ability. It's too late, almost at the hog-line, time to let go and let the rock make its way to the other end.

The rock sails down to its target, the player remains on the ice, watching with baited breath.

"Good shot," says the skip and raises the broom above his head, a look of success crossing his face. A look of surprise and relief shows on the player's face as another year of curling begins.

News tips call ex. 7750

Niagara Knights hockey

'Nothing will come easy for us'

By PETER KOZELA
Staff Writer

No wins, three defeats.

That's what their record is.

A big zero in the W column.

But they could've been 2-1 or 1-2.

Would've, could've, should've. It's all water under the bridge now, as the Niagara hockey Knights lost both games last weekend to Sir Sandford Fleming of Lindsay and Peterborough by scores of 5-3 at Welland Arena.

The Knights showed a definite improvement from their 7-1 crushing defeat at the hands of Conestoga College on Nov. 7. But, once again, they made some defensive mistakes and it ended up costing them both games.

On Saturday, the Knights had the better of the scoring chances but could not the puck past Lindsay goaltender Neil Cameron when it counted.

"I saw lots of rubber in the third period," said Cameron after the game.

Lindsay coach Steve Weatherbee said he was happy with his team's effort and is pleased to see Niagara in the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association this year.

"It's good to see Ontario colleges come together in this league. It will become better and really competitive. Niagara left a good impression on us," Weatherbee said.

Lindsay opened the scoring in the first period on a goal by Bernie Gallan at 14:19. Niagara tied it up at 16:49 with a goal by Pat Skuta. Lindsay took a 3-1 lead on goals by Brett Lammie and Rob Poitras at 5:55 and 6:12 of the second period. The Knights tied it up again with Steve Andrews and Mike Dakin scoring at 12:05 and 17:03. Lindsay took the lead again at 18:56 with Brett Lammie netting his second of the game.

In the third period the Knights had better scoring chances but Neil Cameron was equal to the task, including a two-man power play by the Knights. A high-sticking penalty by Bob Bird at 17:52 put the Knights in a difficult position to tie the game. They pulled goaltender Dan Yakubowski in the final minute but an empty-net goal by Lindsay's Ron Maheu sealed the Knights' fate.

"We did not play that badly," said Knights coach Fred Bassi. "We were playing hard and had the better scoring chances, but, again, it was stupidity on our part as far as penalties is concerned. I was pleased with Dan (Yakubowski). I've been pleased with our goaltending.

Knights assistant coach Jim Beattie said he feels the same way as Bassi.

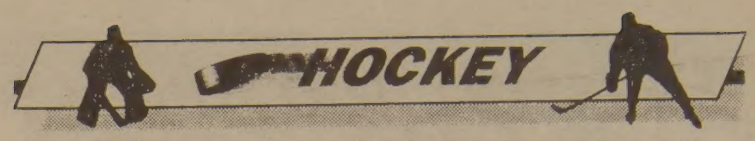
"I thought we outplayed them. We can't afford to make mistakes. If we're going to win in this league we're going to have to work for every opportunity we get. Nothing will come easy for us," Beattie said.

In Friday's game, a 5-3 defeat to Sir Sandford Fleming of Peterborough, the Niagara scorers were Andrew Clark, Steve Andrews, and Mike Emond.

After the team's first game on Nov. 7, Bassi stated: "We didn't capitalize on the chances we had and we didn't play well in our zone. I'm looking to go with 10 forwards and five defencemen. I also want to take a look at our other two goalies."

Jamie Laurin scored the lone Niagara goal.

The Knights played Seneca in Toronto last night. They travel to Peterborough on Sunday for a 1 p.m. game against Sir Sandford Fleming.



The following is the roster for the Niagara College Knights hockey team for 1992-93.

1 Rob LeMaitre - goalie
2 Steve Cote - defence
3 Chris Kerehuk - defence
4 Len Hale - defence
5 Pat Skuta- defence - assistant captain
6 Rob Lafleur - defence
7 Rick Ryan - defence
8 Andrew Clark - forward - assistant captain
9 Mike Dakin - forward
10 Bob Bird - forward
11 Nathan Courage - forward
16 Simon Wayda - forward
17 Dale Zimmerman - forward - captain
18 John Anger - forward
19 Jamie Laurin - forward
20 Mike Emond - forward
22 Derek Rewberry - forward
25 Steve Andrews - forward
27 Chris Dunstall - defence
29 Chris Bradnam - defence
30 Rob Wylde - goalie
31 Dan Yakubowski - goalie
Head Coach - Fred Bassi
Assistant Coaches - Jim Beattie, Dave St. Germain

Men's volleyball team improves record to 2-1

By FRANK IUDICIANI
Staff Writer

The Niagara College men's volleyball team ran their record to 2-1 with a five-game victory over Georgian College in Barrie Wednesday night.

The Knights fell behind early in the first game but battled back from an 11-8 deficit to win 16-14. Brian Dekker led the team offensively with five kills.

The second game was sloppily played by both clubs with niether team showing any consistency serving. The Knights had 17 kills in the game led by Greg Fraser with five, but lost 15-9.

Game three saw both teams trade the lead many times. With the score tied at 9-9, Niagara scored five unanswered points to take a commanding lead and help them win the game 15-11. Greg Heyder led the attack with seven kills and also dominated on defence with three blocks.

"Heyder had an outstanding match both offensively and defensively," Knights' coach Ray Sarkis said. "He really dominated at the net."

The fourth game was a see-saw battle with many sideouts due to poor serving on both sides. With Niagara leading 11-8, Georgian fought back and took the game 15-13.

"That was our best game on defensive coverage behind our attackers," Sarkis said. "I give them (Georgian) a lot of credit."

Game five was played in a rally point format and saw the lead change hands many times. With the game tied at 10, Niagara finally broke away and went on to win the game 15-12.

Heyder led the team with 18 kills in the match with Dekker and Jim Konrad adding 14 each. Fraser played his best game of the year, chipping in with 12 .

Heyder and Dan Lemmon were the defensive standouts with eight and six blocks respectively.

"Dan had a great defensive game and did a good job getting the ball to the weak side," Sarkis said.

The Knights' next league game will be Saturday as they host a crossover tournament against the East Division. They will open against Canadore College from North Bay at 10 a.m. and play Cambrian College of Sudbury and Sault College of Sault Ste. Marie later in the afternoon.

Jays pulled country together; elect them!

By SAM ASELSTINE
Staff Writer

With their World Series victory and history of success, the Toronto Blue Jays have shown how effectively an organization can be operated using intelligence and respect.

Because of this everyone benefits — the owners, management, players, shareholders and fans, especially the fans. Canada's future, as dictated by its politicians, should look so rosy, but it doesn't.

As the referen-dumb came and went, we watched with amazement, concern and frustration as our leaders continued to make the same mistakes without regard for doing the job for which they are paid so handsomely.

I've got an idea. U.S. President George Bush speaks of a New World Order. Well, my idea involves a New World Series Order. Since a Canadian team won the World Series, Canada will now become the leading world power.

Because we don't want to embarrass ourselves with the world watching, I propose we replace our politicians with men and women who have proven they can do the job without all the nonsense — members of the Blue Jays' organization. We'll call it the Blue Jay Party. And what a party it will be!

Here are just a few of the changes I would make.

Blue Jay president Paul Beeston, formerly of Welland, would become our new prime minister. He's a financial genius and we definitely need someone in office who can add. Brian Mulroney's figures, especially those pertaining to jobs which free trade has created (what jobs you ask?), are curious to say the least.

Cito Gaston becomes the premier of Ontario. He has experienced more than enough second-guessing from the media during his successful tenure as the Jays' manager to prepare him for the job. The new job will probably afford Cito more sleep than he's accustomed to getting.

The only money issued for national defense will go directly to Devon White, the new minister of defense, who will distribute it as he sees fit so that he and the rest of the players will have enough new gloves to provide fans with another year of stellar fielding. Manny Lee gets a bigger glove for next year.

Pat Borders becomes the new minister of foreign affairs. He's made more good news abroad than anyone before him and with a name like that he's a natural.

Jobs will be given to every member of the Blue Jays' organization.

Unlike our federal and provincial governments, there will be no overlap of services. Without the bureaucracy, our country will be structured so that it will be possible to find solutions to the difficult questions we face. We'll lose the name government, along with its ineffectiveness and negative connotations.

Toronto becomes our new national capital and SkyDome, as the best spot for Canadians to speak freely, will replace the Parliament buildings as the place where we debate the issues that concern us.

I'm going to change Canada Day from July 1 to Oct. 18 — the day of the flag flap. As we celebrate, special thanks will go out each year to the U.S. Marine color guard for waking us up as a nation, enabling us to finally do something our leaders have never done — stand up and demand to be respected as a nation. We also showed Americans that it's possible to be patriotic without being obnoxious.

Mulroney won't go unnoticed for his years of disservice to our country. I've decided to let him vacuum the turf at SkyDome. Someone has to make it look good for the post-season each year.

Isn't it ironic that Blue Jay Day happened to fall on the same day as the national referendum. I wonder how many sober votes were cast, particularly in Toronto. Regardless, the Jays were able to rally the country where the politicians failed.

So step aside all you Liberals, Progressive Conservativess, New Democrats, Social Credits and Reformers. Here comes the new sensation, the new kid on the block so to speak. Unlike other pretenders to the throne, this party has a proven track record, a history of battling adversity and getting the job done with no exceptions, no excuses.

Just what we need, and just in time.

Pro Line catches on quickly

By DENNIS FAST
Staff Writer

If you love sports, if you think you're a sports expert or you just like to make money, here's a game for you.

Pro Line from Sport Select is a new lottery game where customers try to predict the outcome of sporting events.

Every week a list of 60 sporting events is available for customers to choose from. So far the events include NFL and CFL football and NHL hockey. Customers must choose between three and six games and must have all predictions correct in order to win. Odds are given on a visitor win, a tie or a home win. All odds are multiplied together and then multiplied by the wager to find the total winnings. Customers can wager anywhere between $2 and $100.

"It's an exciting challenge," said Sue Arbuckle, 21, of St. Catharines. "It's really fun when you can pick the right bloody teams!"

The game was in the stores and lottery booths on Oct. 29 and has been growing in popularity.

"It's been excellent," said Vera Benko, manager of the lottery booth in Welland's Seaway Mall. "It's really catching on."

Pressure too much for Magic

By RICK KINZEL
Staff Writer

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, one of the greatest basketball players ever, and maybe the best ambassador basketball has ever had, did something completely out of character — he gave up.

Johnson decided to come out of retirement and play about 60 games for the Los Angeles Lakers. He retired a year ago because he was infected with the HIV virus. Johnson made the decision to come back after consulting his doctors and performing great in the Olympic games.

In a pre-season game Johnson cut his elbow. Under new National Basketball Association rules, he was taken out of the game and the cut was given medical attention. Many NBA players including Olympic teammate Karl Malone, expressed concern about playing against Johnson. Malone said he couldn't play as hard against Johnson because he feared getting an infection from Johnson.

Johnson, considering the comments from his fellow players, made the decision to quit his comeback.

Johnson has been a winner on and off the court during his career. However, giving up is not a character trait of a winner. A few ignorant and uneducated players making comments against Johnson is not a good reason to quit. What kind of message does this send to a child infected with HIV who wants to go to public school or just play with friends? Should the child experience a little resistance or teasing is it proper to give up like Johnson? My impression of a positive role model is someone who fights to the end.

There are always going to be the uneducated and the ignorant such as Malone but someone must stand up to them. Johnson had a chance to be the Dr. Martin Luther King of the AIDS fight. Johnson vows to keep educating people about AIDS, but the fact is he could have influenced many more people by being in the spotlight and playing for the Lakers.

As for Malone and the rest of the uneducated, you chased away the one true role model in basketball now that Larry Bird has retired and Michael Jordan is suffering from a bad golf game causing him to loose a bit of money. Besides, if you still believe HIV can be transferred on the basketball court, it's not Johnson you have to worry about. It's the players you don't know if they're infected or not.

I respect and admire Johnson for his talents on the court and the way he has handled himself off the court. Except in this case I believe he is wrong.

Upcoming games

The Niagara men's hockey team starts a road trip Nov. 22 in Peterborough against Sir Sandford Fleming at 1 p.m. On Nov. 27 and 28, they play Northern College in Hailybury at 8 p.m. and Cambrian in Sudbury at 8 p.m.

The men's basketball team hosts Sir Sandford Fleming tonight at 7 p.m. and Loyalist Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. On Nov. 28, the Knights host Lambton at 4 p.m.

The women's volleyball team hosts Lambton Nov. 28 at noon.

The men's volleyball team plays a tournament tomorrow at the Welland campus at 10 a.m. On Nov. 24, they host Conestoga at 7:30 p.m.

NFL full of controversy

By RICK KINZEL
Staff Writer

Over the past six weeks the National Football League has been staging battles throughout the United States. But the biggest battle may have taken place in the courts.

Three weeks ago, four players were granted free agency by U.S. District Court Judge David Doty. The players believe they have the right to play where ever they want, while the NFL wants to make the league more competitive by restricting movement.

Garin Varis of the New England Patriots told USA Today: "It's nice to finally be in a position where I have some say in where I play."

Varis along with Philadelphia tight-end Keith Jackson and Cleveland wide-receiver Webster Slaughter were able to pick their teams. Jackson signed a four-year $6-million deal with the Miami Dolphins last week, while Varis signed a contract with San Francisco for $1.25 million over two years. Slaughter recently signed for big bucks with the Houston Oilers.

Varis displays the attitude of the rest of the players. In 1987 the NFL Players Association went on strike for 24 days trying to get a total free agency system.

The players believe they don't have a choice of where they want to play, but they do. Perhaps they should ask multi-millionaire Raghib "Rocket" Ismail about choices.

Comment

If the players get their way, it will cost owners a great deal of money. An open market would skyrocket salaries and football would be mistaken for baseball.

The owners could lose millions of dollars. If you believe this, give me a call and we'll talk real estate deals in Florida. The last thing the owners will do is lose money.

Somebody must pay the bill. This is where the fan enters. Ticket prices and merchandise costs will increase, not to mention the already enormous television contracts will be even higher forcing the networks to lose money. (Those who believe this, please refer to the Florida analogy.)

Pay-per-view television is almost a certainty in the future. Free agency will just make the bill a little steeper for viewers.

If the court system does declare free agency in the NFL, fans should go on strike because we stand to lose more of our hard-earned dollars.

Assassination of JFK a conspiracy contends Schleich in presentation

By KARLA SCHINDEL
Staff Writer

U.S. President John Kennedy's assassination in 1963 was the result of a conspiracy, said David Schleich, Niagara College's vice-president academic.

"As more and more information comes forward, it becomes clear that a conspiracy happened," he said.

Schleich shared his passion and theories about the Kennedy assassination during a presentation in the Welland campus' Hamilton Room, Nov. 12.

Over the years he has collected films, movies, books, and over 1,000 slides dealing with Kennedy and the theories surrounding his death.

"The cover up connected to the JFK assassination was so powerful and so pervasive that it led to speculation for the next 30 years."

Like many, Schleich has his own questions about what happened. He used the information available to try and draw conclusions about what occurred Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas, Tex.

The Warren Commission, "chosen by the government to give the American people and the world a handle on what happened," concluded there was one gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, who fired three shots at the president. They also concluded that the fatal shot delivered to Kennedy's head came from behind and that there was no conspiracy.

"When you look at the evidence from a number of points of view you always end up at a dead end," Schleich said.

"How can you determine whether there was one killer or more than one killer?"

"Was he shot in front or from behind? Another question, if in fact he was killed by one person, how could that person have known the route when the route changed four days prior to the actual motorcade?"

Questions like these hooked Schleich on investigating the killing and its circumstances.

During a slide presentation of the motorcade and assassination, augmented by an audio tape, Schleich asked the audience to determine for themselves how many shots they heard. Those in attendance agreed they heard at least four.

With the help of an enhanced audio tape of the shots, "it becomes clear that there were not just three (shots); there had to be more than three," he said.

"This acoustic evidence presented by Dr. Peter Weiss to a Senate Investigation Committee investigating the assassination, actually came up with a model that implies at first, and then states categorically, eventually, that there were in fact three assassins, at least, and probably four and that there were six shots," he told the audience.

Questioning the findings of the Warren Commission further, Schleich explained that when Kennedy's body was examined at Bethesda Naval Hospital, in Bethesda, Md., information about the entrance and exit wounds was confused.

"Parkland Memorial Hospital doctors said absolutely that the throat wound was an entrance wound," he said. "However, the Bethesda Naval Hospital autopsy conducted by medical personnel from the navy and from the army determined that in fact the huge throat wound was caused by the tracheotomy given to help Kennedy breathe during the last moments of his life," Schleich said.

To illustrate his belief that the fatal shot hit Kennedy from the front, Schleich played the famed Zapruder film of the assassination in slow motion. Again, those in attendance agreed the fatal shot had come from the front.

Schleich's conclusion is that the killing was a setup, "an absolute assassination conspiracy." He gives three "simple" reasons for the possiblity of this conspiracy.

"Kennedy's unwillingness to dismantle the Castro regime in Cuba," he said. "He really made the Mob (American Mafia) angry because they lost the little empire they had built in Cuba to launder money and they also lost hundreds of millions in casino property. They had the base of operations for a very lucrative and growing drug trade cut off and had to restore it in other places — Colombia and Panama."

He called these the "most dramatic" of his reasons but offers two other possiblities.

Schleich believes Kennedy's reluctance to engage militarily in South Vietnam angered those who owned American factories and ran U.S. armies.

Robert Kennedy's unmatched indictment rate of organized crime leaders; an indictment rate that saw him take down more crime leaders in his 14 months as U.S. attorney general than in the history of the United States, was another possibility, Schleich cited.

"Somebody, somewhere, knows what happened," he said.

Despite the alleged coverup, Schleich said he is confident the mystery will one day be solved.

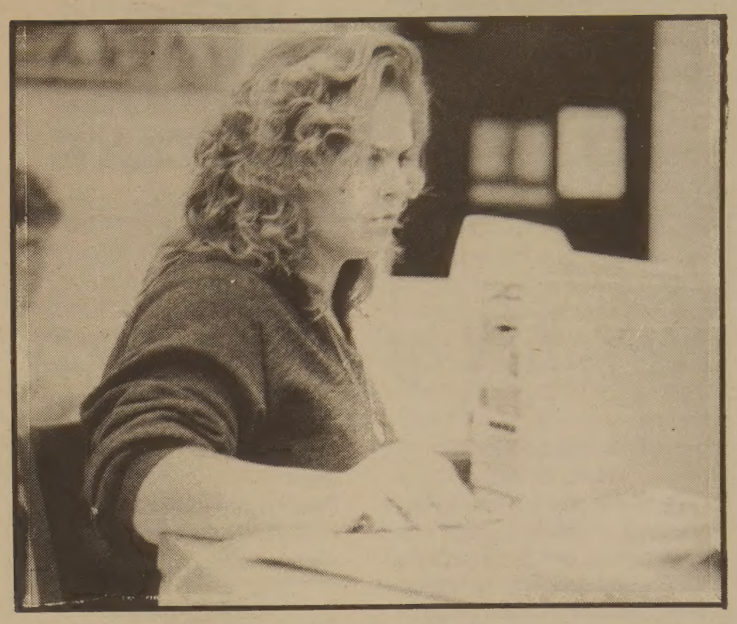
Until then, "it's the best who-dun-it of the 20th century."

Bookworms browse

The 23rd annual University Women's Club of Welland book sale was held in the Niagara College Cafeteria Nov. 14. Proceeds go towards scholarships and other community projects.

Photo by Sheri Goodman

Only female engineering student fits right in, now Channon Dilts is just 'one of the guys'



Channon Dilts does a class assignment on an Auto Cad machine.

Photo by Stuart Krick

By STUART KRICK
Staff Writer

"When we had the orientation day for our program, I was sitting in the class, alone, surrounded by a bunch of guys, praying that another female would be in the program," said Channon Dilts, 21, the only female student in the second year of the Manufacturing Engineering Technology program at Niagara College.

Her prayers were not answered, "but that doesn't matter now," she said. "I get along with the guys just as anyone else. They treat me like one of the guys."

Channon's parents are Larry and Linda Dilts of Wainfleet. Larry, 43, is a scheduler at Maple Leaf Mills, Port Colborne. Linda, 41, was previously a drafter and is now a homemaker. Channon has a sister, Sandra, 19, a psychology student at Carlton University in Ottawa, as well as a brother, Mike, 15, a student of Port Colborne High School.

Channon was logical about deciding on her career path. "I enrolled in the program because I have always been interested in the sciences. I'm also good in math and good with my hands."

Channon thought she was prepared for the program male/female ratio. "I knew the amount of females in the program would be low, but I didn't think I would be the only one."

Nonetheless, Channon likes her program. "The program has good topics, good classes and covers a wide base. It's a lot of work and keeps me busy, but I find it very interesting."

Channon speculates on the cause of low female interest in the program: "Maybe the name scares women off. Maybe if the program was called production management with technical background, it might not scare women away."

Whereas 50 per cent of graduates from law and medical schools are women, only 15 per cent of graduates from engineering schools are women.

"Once women have role models, then we'll get more women in engineering." Dilts

Program co-ordinator Alan Munro said there are reasons why females are rare in the manufacturing industry. "The boys club exclusion of women is still fostered in the engineering community. A quiet prejudice still exists, and I don't know why: Women are just as capable as men," he said.

"Also, females lack role models in the engineering community. Society doesn't push women into engineering. In fact, public and high schools turn women away from engineering."

Munro said to change this siuation teachers will have to change their attitudes and female role models will have to emerge in society at the chief executive officer level.

"Once women have role models, then we'll get more women in engineering."

Munro said it won't be easy for women in engineering. "Women will have to work harder than men, but women graduates from engineering will do very well, getting high pay and good benefits."

Munro understands Channon's plight. "Women like Channon Dilts are the pioneers. They are breaking the ground. Someday these women may be the role models for a whole new age of engineering students."

Channon is realistic about gender equality. "I hope someday it happens, but I don't expect it to be soon. But if people find out what manufacturing is all about, then it may happen."

Channon points out there are five women enrolled in the first year of the program in 1992/93.

Channon said her ambition is to succeed in the course and get a good job in the industry. "I want to end up in a job in the management field with a technology background."

Channon said with a laugh she would also like to do the regular things like "get married, have children, own a house and drive a good car."

Channon, with Kevin Hall and Mark Nadeau, have restarted a club called SME (Society of Manufacturing Engineers). Channon said more than 60 people are interested, and already there are quite a few members.

"The club will organize tours to different manufacturers to see what it's like in the industry, so the students can make contacts, and to let students know what they are getting into."

Channon is confident of her career path. "This industry is key to our society. People say things are going bad, but there are lots of jobs in manufacturing."

Dilts newest member of SAC

By SUE HARVEY
Staff Writer

Channon Dilts is Niagara College's Student Administrative Council's new vice-president of social affairs.

Dilts, a second-year Manufacturing Engineering program student, accepted the position after Steve Berketo resigned last month.

"I've always been interested in planning special events," said Dilts, who accepted the new position in place of her role as a voting student representative on SAC.

"I want to get students involved in the college and let them know the student council is here for them."

Dilts will resign her position in January when she leaves for her co-op term.

Ontario manufacturing continuing to grow Canada has chance to become world leader

By STUART KRICK
Staff Writer

"Despite what the media says, manufacturing is not dying in Ontario, it is evolving," says Alan Munro, the Manufacturing Engineering Technology co-ordinator at Niagara College.

"Manufacturing in the world is merely changing perspective. It's going away from big companies like General Motors, and evolving towards smaller factories with less than 100 employees. These small companies are going after the world market within a high-tech environment," he said.

Competing for the world market is nothing new. Because of its small size, Canada has always had to fight internationally economically, he said.

"Canada is in an excellent position to deal with the new economical realities in the world today. In fact, Canada has the opportunity to emerge, along with Germany and several other Northern European countries, as a leader in the manufacturing field.

"A couple examples of progressive manufacturing companies in Ontario are Indexable Cutting Tools Ltd. of Welland, which has less than 50 employees, and Inter-city Products of Brantford, which has 450 employees turning out air conditioners," he said.

Most people aren't aware of it, but manufacturing touches every aspect of the modern world, he said. "Manufacturing is concerned with creating a product, from automobiles to perfume to food.

"Say you want to make a product, like a telephone. First, the manufacturing workers assemble as a team. Second, the team works on how to make the product, what kind of machines will be needed, the costs and what kind of tooling up will have to be done, if any.

"Third, the team decides on the human resources: Who will run the machines, what they will do, how much training they should receive and how much this will cost.

"Finally, the team has to maintain the machines, as well as trouble shoot for more efficient ways of creating a product.

"All along, the team is concerned with maximum productivity and minimum waste. A good product is one that exceeds the customers wants and has the minimum waste.

"And, in the last few years, manufacturers have been moving towards alternate products, from toxins to non-toxins, to decrease environmental problems."

Manufacturing technologists are "generalists" who specialize in production.

'I am proud of the students I have right now. I think they are an excellent group of people.'

Munro

The four-year program at Niagara College, which consists of three years for an engineering technology diploma in manufacturing, plus 16 months of paid co-op work, gives the student the knowledge and skills to work in a computer-based production engineering environment with the necessary education to move into a supervisory or management capacity, Munro said.

"The program focuses on three general industries: aerospace, automotive and bio-technical. To work in a company in one of these fields is to have a top-end job. And, if you can work in one of these jobs, you can work any place else," he said.

Manufacturing is a very creative field, he said. "To work in this field you need an orientation in mathematics and physics, good communication skills, be highly knowledgeable and think on your feet, understand quality, and diagnose problems as well as have the ability to problem solve.

"Graduates from this program have to be willing to move to the jobs. They will have to start low to get experience, but even in today's employment market, if they stay in the field, they will have secure careers with long-term benefits."

In 1990, there was 100 per cent placement in the program, with an average starting wage of $25,000 plus benefits, he said.

"I am proud of the students I have right now. I think they are an excellent group of people. If I had to base the chances of economic recovery on the people being educated now, I would say that we will succeed.

"But, ultimately, society is going to have to change its attitude towards manufacturing. If we want to maintain our standard of living, we have to have a strong manufacturing based economy. Without manufacturing, there would be no ballet, or be much demand for services.

"Society must see that manufacturing is not dirty, nor dead, and that it is wide open to women," Munro said.

Poinsettias for sale

The college's Horticultural Centre, located on Niagara Street in St. Catharines, will be selling poinsettias and mumsettias at the Welland campus on Dec. 3. The plants will be sold at Hennepin Hall in the morning and in front of the library in the afternoon. Mumsettias will be priced at $8 and poinsettias at $4. Mumsettias are a combination of poinsettia and mum plants in a pot.

A woman's struggle to rebuild her shattered life and give her children a chance for happiness

By KIMBERLY SHEPPARD
Staff Writer

In today's society, it seems everything is on the increase. Perhaps the most alarming criminal increase is that of assault.

Statistics from 1991 show one in three women will be sexually assaulted, while one in 12 women will become pregnant from a rape. Only 12 years ago, the statistics on sexual assault was one in every 15 women.

These statistics are scary. Many people believe they are safe from becoming a statistic if they get married, but as of November 1991, one in eight people were victims of spousal abuse. More than 75 per cent of these victims are women, 10.5 per cent are children and just over one per cent are men.

Kimberly Albon is a survivor of spousal abuse. She was married for almost five years and suffered many types of abuse at the hands of her husband.

Despite the odds, Kim survived and regained control of her life. She is a strong woman who had a reachable goal. She has strong opinions and a strong will. When she sets her mind on something, she strives until she gets it, like getting a college diploma.

She enrolled at Niagara College in September 1991, but even this was not an easy task because she has three children at home.

"It's definitely worse than high school. Try doing major papers with three kids," she says.

Yet Kim said she enjoys college, and it brings her goal closer. Kim had two boys on a waiting list for subsidized day care for a year. They were finally accepted in September; her daughter is in kindergarten half days.

Kim dropped out of Westlane High School in Niagara Falls after Grade 11 and joined the working world at 16 years of age. She went back to high school and picked up a few credits but didn't complete her Grade 12.

All women have a vision of what marriage should be, and Kim was no exception, but her happily ever-after dream was shattered when she married. She was 18. A month before she married she was in a serious motorcycle accident that left her confined to a wheelchair. She had broken her left leg in five places and was told she would never walk again. On Oct. 15, she was married while seated in her wheelchair.

"My life of hell began," Kim said.

A month after her wedding day, her husband started abusing her. The first incident involved being set on fire in a waterbed. The abuse continued throughout the following year.

"He never left marks where they could be seen," she said.

In March 1986, Kim refused to stay in her wheelchair any longer. She was determined she would walk again. At the beginning of the month she began walking wilth crutches. She then graduated to using a cane. Soon afterwards she was walking unassisted.

She then discovered she was pregnant.

A year after her marriage, her husband pulled out a loaded shotgun. He held it to her head while she called the police. At that time, police were not treating domestic violence as seriously as they do now. Not until 1989 did police respond to domestic violence calls promptly.

"Police told me 'we charge them, the minute we lay the charges the wife gets defensive and she says he didn't do anything'," she said.

Her husband was charged with careless storage of a firearm and fined $150. He lost his gun and his hunting licences.

Kim had a daughter, Tori, and was pregnant with her second child in 1987.

"Physical abuse slacked off throughout 1987-88," Kim said, adding that the abuse was far from over. In 1989, Kim was six months pregnant with her third child when her husband beat her hands and back with a piece of oak.

In February 1990 she finally kicked him out of their home because he put his fist through the baby's crib while the baby was in it. Believing her husband had changed his ways, she allowed him to return for two weeks in April. Her hopes were shattered once again when he was removed from the home for trying to choke her. No charges were laid.

Kim now had three children, Victoria, A. J., and Joshua. She said she stayed with such an abusive man because "when children are involved then the guilt comes into play. I had a beautiful home. I had beautiful furniture. I had three beautiful children and he only beat me once in a while. Am I going to give all of that up? I guess it's fear of being alone. Because I never told anyone what was going on there was a lot of disbelief even from my own family. He was two different people."

The comment she heard most often was that she had a marriage made in heaven.

Living through those five years, Kim managed to keep her family together, but she wanted a better life for herself and her children. Now that she was on her own, she looked at the opportunity to return to high school to complete her Grade 12. As for the children, it took a few months for them to adjust to mommy not being there all the time.

"The hardest thing was leaving the baby. He cried all the time. A.J. loved day care and Tori was already in junior kindergarten."

She managed to adjust to the idea of going back to school but found it difficult and tiring. "Being in school all day, going home, getting supper for the kids, bathing them and getting them to bed, there was not a lot of leisure time left. Then, of course, there was homework as well."

Kim graduated from Stamford High School in June 1991 and applied to Niagara College for September.

Kim said she is willing to do "whatever it takes" to make her life, as well as those of her children, better and happier. The odds were stacked against her, but she endured the pain and survived the struggle.

Spousal abusers wear many faces

By BRIAN LAFANTAISIE
Staff Writer

Abuse is an issue that is just coming to light. There are many reasons why people abuse and many ways people deal with the frustrations and pressures of life. There is an abuser in all of us, but the level of control a person shows will mean the difference between a violent person and a non-violent person.

Abusers and non-abusers range from the highest point to the lowest point on the social scale. An abuser can be anyone, from a doctor or lawyer, to a construction worker or someone on social assistance. There is a tendency for many people to believe that those, with jobs of high esteem, have perfect relationships. There was also a belief, at one time, that it was normal for a husband to beat his wife. However, these ideals and beliefs have seen a change in attitudes about abuse over the last few decades. Because people have stood up against all forms of abuse, it has become a major issue in North America.

There are many reasons why people abuse. Jobs cause stress and frustration which may build in a person. That person may in turn have a bad temper or feel insecure and look for something or someone to release frustrations upon. Alcohol may also release frustration that is waiting to get out. A person's insecurity may also make that person feel they need a sense of control. To get this control, abusers may beat their mate, forcing the victim to do as the abuser wants.

Non-abusers deal with their problems in different ways than abusers. If job stress is building up on a non-abuser, that person may decide to release it through exercise. If the urge to hit or destroy arises in a non-abuser, a good talk or maybe even a good cry is the solution most used. A non-abuser does have the urges and ability to abuse, but thinks before acting and realizes the consequences.

Abusers see the world as a horrible place. Everything is against them and they find themselves grasping for any bit of control they can get. Unfortunately, the only form of control the person can find is over the spouse or children. Abusers may also see themselves as being inadequate compared to the world and beat their partner to prove their power.

It is clear that abuse will remain with us in one form or another for a very long time. It is unfortunate for the woman who has to live the rest of her life in fear. It is unfortunate for the child whose physical scars may heel, but emotionally will be scarred for life. Also it is unfortunate for the person who could be helped, but is looked upon as being a bad person rather than a sick person. Until people realize that abusers can be helped, the issue will remain unchanged.

Campus thieves beware

By TROY CLARKE
Staff Writer

Niagara College is the first Ontario community college with its own unit of Crime Stoppers.

A Board of Directors for the unit at the college is expected to be announced in January, and Crime Stoppers is slated to begin when classes begin for the 1993-94 school year.

Law and Security instructor Heather Hodgson, who is co-ordinating the effort, said January 1993 was the original target date to launch Crime Stoppers. However, she said "we're a bit more realistic now, and we're hoping to have the board in place by January."

As a result, anyone giving information about a crime on campus is eligible for a cash reward up to $1,000 if an arrest is made. Callers do not have to identify themselves, and a code number is given to guarantee anonymity.

Crime Stoppers is an "anonymous tipster's reward program," said Mark Sargeson, co-ordinator of Niagara Region's Crime Stoppers division.

Crime Stoppers is a citizen and police co-operative program geared towards involving the public in the fight against crime. It uses media sources such as newspapers and television to re-enact crimes.

The program originated in New Mexico in 1976, when an Albuquerque detective was investigating a homicide resulting from a hold-up. Police re-enacted the crime on a television news program, offering a reward for information leading to an arrest. Within 24 hours of airing, the crime was solved.

Currently there are more than 800 divisions of Crime Stoppers in North America and more than 1,000 worldwide.

Meanwhile, Sargeson said anonymity is the key to the program.

"One would think they (tipsters) call just because of the money, but that's not the number one reason."

Sargeson said one of the main reasons people call Crime Stoppers is the fact they can remain anonymous.

In the meantime, Hodgson said all Niagara College campuses will be involved in the effort, with the Welland campus as main headquarters.

"The entire college has to be involved or it won't work," she said.

Hans van der Slaght, vice-president of administration, gives credit to Hodgson for initiating Crime Stoppers at the college.

On behalf of all college administrators, Van der Slaght, said "I would like to say we are very supportive of anything that will help increase the security and safety of our people."

"We are pleased with the enthusiasm and support of this initiative," said David Schleich, vice-president academic. "The success of Crime Stoppers will provide yet another dimension to our safety and peace of mind."

Hodgson said she is looking for people who "want to do it."

A fool's paradise awaits at LuLu's

By SHERI GOODMAN
Staff Writer

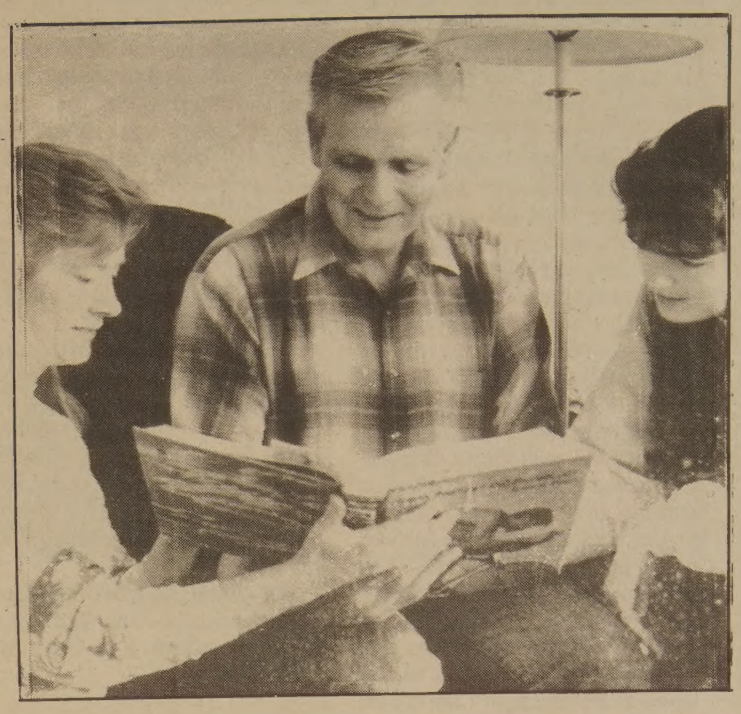
Students who enjoy doing stupid human tricks can attend the 1992 annual Mascot Championships at LuLu's in Kitchener Nov. 27.

Winners may appear live on the David Letterman show and all contestants are video taped to be reviewed by Late Night staff.

Larry "Bud" Melman will be shown via satellite from New York City, and BJ Birdy, mascot of the Toronto Blue Jays, will be at LuLu's.

Tickets can be purchased at the Student Centre for $12.99. The bus leaves at 6:30 p.m. from Niagara.

Family learns together at Mack Centre as first-year nursing students



Family of Nurses

From left, Barbara, Gary and Sally Garries study together in their Fort Erie home. The three are not only related but also attend the first-year nursing program at the Mack Centre in St. Catharines.

Photo by Kim Morphew

By KIM MORPHEW
Staff Writer

A family that plays together, stays together. Gary, Barbara and Sally Garries have taken this adage to heart.

Petite, active, and a type 'A', Barbara Garries, 34, busies herself in the bright kitchen making coffee, answering the phone and calling off the dog. Silver-haired Gary, 46, speaks most often on behalf of the family, his slightly stooped shoulders lending him a friendly air. Sally, 17, sits at the end of the linoleum table drinking juice, not coffee, her long black hair pulled off her face but spilling forward onto her shoulders.

All three of the Garries are first-year nursing students at the Mack Centre. This in itself is not unusual except that when school is over they all go home — together.

Two years ago Gary and Barbara's oldest daughter, Carry, decided to look into going to school. While investigating on her behalf Gary and Barbara started to become interested. Strangely enough Carry decided against going but the rest of the family had convinced themselves to go.

Barbara has been a licensed jockey since 1980 but for safety reasons only rode in one race last season. Since Gary owned a horse stable, the two have a history of working together, now it's just a different type of work. Gary decided to sell the business to his brother but is still actively involved, as a licensed trainer.

In her spare time Barbara also bred dogs, Rottweillers, for the last nine years.

"We kept the first dog we had owned, Dance, now he's the last," said Barbara.

As for school, "We're all 'A' students," said Gary with agreement from Barbara and Sally. On test mornings the family quizzes each other on the half hour drive from Fort Erie to St. Catharines. All three agree that differing study habits requires them to study separately.

The trio also admit to a great deal of trepidation that only recently has eased.

"Three weeks ago we were still pretty negative. There is a lot of trial and error. Frustrating, but the more mistakes you make the more you learn," said Gary smiling.

"We were going to get through but I think we are all a little more confident now — of course mid-term assessments really help," adds Barbara looking somewhat relieved to have come this far.

"When we started college together I was like, wait a minute, maybe I should be at Mohawk or something. But, Dad is a people person — he used to do stuff to embarrass me sometimes but nobody there cares," Sally says of her experience in going to school with her parents. "The house is big enough that we can get away from each other if we have to."

With a class of over 50, and about 150 in first-year, the Garries feel the college has been helpful in accommodating their needs. Administration asked them if they would prefer to be separated. They said no because it saves the family money by driving together.

"We only get one teacher's perspectives," said Barbara about having the same instructors, "but it could have confused the issue."

The instructors are registered nurses which the three agree is important to the learning process.

"I used to say in high school, how will I ever use this?" Sally said, "With RNs as teachers they can tell you."

Although the employment situation for nurses in Niagara is not the best, the Garries are optimistic the trend will turn around shortly. Gary and Sally lived in Kentucky for two years befor he married Barbara and all three are willing to go back.

"They are grooming the new nurses to work not only in hospitals but in the community. Canada has surpassed the States in this thinking," Barbara said of the job prospects.

All three agree that the job prospects are a lot more attractive in the United States.

"It is going to be a diverse area to work in, in the near future. In the States RNs work in doctors' offices, we haven't done that yet. Nursing will never be obsolete; it just won't happen," said Gary.

The family lives in Fort Erie in a rural area. Their neighbor released a domestic rabbit at some point last year which has the house now surrounded by half-breed rabbits. Sally would like to bring one of the small ones in as a pet but Gary and Barbara haven't given in — yet.

Dental clinic ready for January start

By SHERI GOODMAN
Staff Writer

The Niagara College dental clinic opens Jan. 7, 1993.

With the addition of the Dental Hygiene program this year, the clinic can offer patients more services.

"There is an increase (in numbers) of patients because of people interested in cleanings," said Jo Szabo, clinical technician.

The hygiene clinic is open from January to June. The restoritive clinic, operated by Dental Assistant program students, operates during January and February.

Both clinics are supervised by 12 dentists hired by Niagara College from the community. The dentists like the educational involvement and it's a "change of pace for them," Szabo said.

A registration fee of $10 is required upon first visit by patients over 18 years of age. The fee pays for the year. Children receive services free of charge.

The hygiene visits are three hours in duration. The patient receives a thorough examination, cleaning, radiographs, dental charting and dental hygiene instruction. Szabo suggests going through an examination before having restoritive work, such as cavity fillings, done.

The appointment times are 9 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Tuesdays. Wednesdays and Fridays are restoritive clinics.

Appointments can be made by calling extension 7758 or by stopping in at the clinic in Simcoe building, room 301, on the Welland campus.

Recycling program is neglected by students

By BRANDON BAIN
Staff Writer

You've probably noticed, but just in case you haven't, this campus has a reycling program.

The Welland campus is the only campus of Niagara College that has a major recycling program. Blue bins are located at high traffic areas of the school to encourage students and staff to recycle. To some degree it's worked but there is a major problem with contamination in bins.

There are three specific bins: cans and glass, fine print and newsprint. It is important, if recycling is going to work, that material is placed in the proper bin. Some of the problem may be because of a lack of education, but most of it is a lack of individual responsibility.

If fine paper and newsprint are mixed, the quality of the fine paper goes down. If metal and newsprint are mixed the result is a rejected load.

It should be common sense when it comes to what goes in what bin with the only problem being with fine paper. There are guidelines posted at fine paper bins to show you what can and cannot go in.

Recycling is extremely important. With a little more effort and common sense from the students and staff, the contamination can be avoided and the recycling program will work much better.

United Way event

Jail and Bail fundraiser surpasses goal of $1,500

By KIMBERLY SHEPPARD
Staff Writer

You're under arrest! For the United Way.

The United Way in Welland sponsored a seven-hour Jail and Bail for 1992 on Nov. 3, a fundraiser involving the community and United Way volunteers.

JoAnne St. George is a volunteer for the United Way and was assisting with the Jail and Bail held at the Seaway Mall, on Niagara Street, Welland. She said organizers hoped to raise about $1,500 this year. The total surpassed the goal at $1,595.

The Jail and Bail concept encourages people to pay a $25 fee to have someone arrested. This could be a boss, a fellow worker, or even, their father. Police go to the person's workplace or wherever they would be and arrest them — all prearranged. The arresting officer reads the charges and brings the prisoner to the mall where the United Way had a holding cell set up.

Eli Sheppard, an Atlas Steel employee, was one of many who was brought before the judge and sentenced. Shane Belford, a volunteer, was the judge. He read all charges aloud before the gathering crowd. Sheppard was charged with working on his 60th birthday. As Sheppard was put into the holding cell another man, Robert Rodrigue, was brought before the judge. Rodrigue was charged with break and enter. "I was breaking into my own warehouse," said Rodrigue. This was not a sufficient defence and he too was incarcerated.

Asked about his crime, Sheppard replied, "(It's) a heinous crime, almost as bad as being Prime Minister of Canada in this part of the world."

Sheppard's family, called before the judge, was asked if they believed the prisoner had served enough time for his crime. A negative shake of their heads was the reply. Twenty-five minutes later Sheppard was set free after posting $5 bail. His daughter offered to pay his bail and he was taken back to work.

The Jail and Bail is a semi-annual event. The money will be added to other funds and divided among 24 member agencies including Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Women's Place and other organizations.

Financial Aid exchange officer with Calgary Mount Royal and Niagara swap for academic year

Alison Laureshen, right, is assisting Niagara College's financial aid officer Kathy Borisenko for the 1992-93 academic year. Laureshen is on a staff exchange from Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alta.

Photo by Arlene Arch

By ARLENE ARCH
Staff Writer

Students returning to the Financial Aid office at Niagara College this year may notice an unfamiliar face.

Alison Laureshen is substituting for the college's previous financial aid officer, Elaine Spark, for the 1992-93 academic year. The two women are participating in a year-long exchange that sent Spark to Calgary, Alta., and brought Laureshen to Welland.

Originally from Montreal, Laureshen moved to Calgary in 1964. She has worked as the financial aid officer at Mount Royal College in Calgary for 20 years. Her first official day at Niagara College was Aug. 1 although she arrived in July to settle into Spark's Thorold South home.

At Mount Royal College, Laureshen dealt with scholarships. She says that until she becomes more familiar with Ontario's complex system, she will assist Kathy Borisenko, financial aid officer at Niagara College for 10 years.

Laureshen said she has observed the Alberta school system as more efficient than Ontario's and there is a lot less paperwork involved there. Spark says she supports that observation citing that for every 10 papers she had to fill out here, only one is needed in Calgary.

Borisenko and Laureshen have kept in touch with Spark since the exchange began and they say she is doing well. Spark's one complaint about Calgary was the three snowstorms she's experienced since her arrival in July.

YMCA urges facility use, discount offered to students

By TRISH McLAY
Staff Writer

"Y"-Why not?

For over 10 years Niagara College students have been able to use the indoor swimming pool at the YMCA in Welland by simply showing their identification cards.

Brad Clements, executive director of the YMCA, strongly urges students to take advantage of the facility's services since admission is covered by their college administration fee.

Although students can swim for free only during the school year, the YMCA offers a discount rate for all programs.

"Aqua-Fitness is the oldest program. It involves low impact co-ed exercises in the shallow end of the pool," said Clements, who has been the director of the Welland YMCA for 21 years.

"Our fitness centre is fully equipped. All our equipment is universal, including our four step machines. Our instructors are all fully qualified."

The Welland YMCA, 285 East Main St., has been operating for 22 years.

The Rotary Club of Welland and Wintario have purchased a lift to aid people with special needs to get in and out of the 25-yard, four-lane pool.

"Our bodies need to be used just like machines to work efficiently," Clements said. "The stress that students face with their studies can be reduced with regular exercise.

"In my point of view, I would like to see more communication between our two organizations."

The centre is well maintained and provides lockers, ample parking and a sense of belonging.

"We have a policy here that nobody will be turned away for financial reasons," Clements said.

This year subsidized membership was granted to 414 applicants on a fixed income, receiving social welfare or disability pensions.

"We have to meet our social mission," said Clements.

The YMCA offers flexible and convenient hours.

Escape mid-term stress

By SUE HARVEY
Staff Writer

The Student Administrative Council and After Hours provide an escape for mid-term stress with a guest speaker, movies, entertainment and sports this month.

GUEST SPEAKER — Beverly Hadland from Straight Talk Youth Counselling will talk about medical issues such as AIDS, drug awareness, and abortion. Hadland will be in the Hamilton Room on Nov. 23, at 3:30 p.m. Hadland's presentation is free of charge.

MOVIES — Every Tuesday and Thursday during the SAC activity periods (12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.) movies are shown in the Hamilton Room free of charge. Next week's movies are Encino Man on Tuesday and Sister Act on Thursday.

ENTERTAINMENT — Gary McGill a singer/guitarist who plays a range of music is appearing at After Hours on Nov. 24 at 1 p.m. No cover charge.

Niagara College's comedy night at Yuk Yuk's at Maple Leaf Village in Niagara Falls Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are sold out.

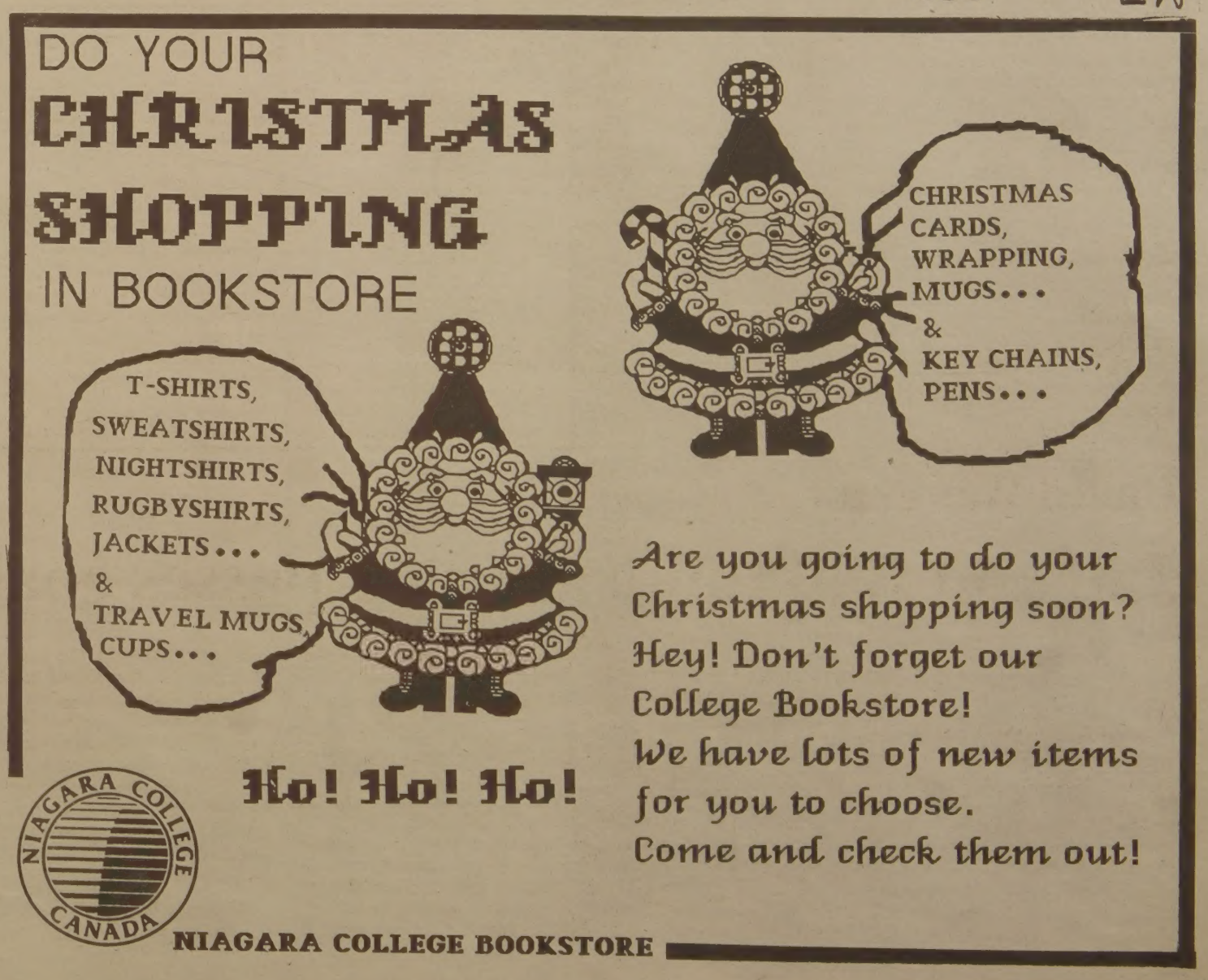
SPORTS — The Niagara Knights host Conestoga College in men's volleyball on Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the gym at the Welland campus.

On Nov. 27 in men's basketball action, Loyalist is at Niagara. Game starts at 7 p.m. in the gym at the Welland campus.

On Nov. 28 Lambton comes to Niagara for men's basketball at 4 p.m. in the gym at the Welland campus. Lambton women's volleyball team meet Niagara at noon in the gym at the Welland campus.

COMING EVENTS — On Dec. 17, Niagara College is having a Christmas party at the Rose Villa on Riverside Drive in Welland. Live entertainment is provided by LMT Connection, a band that plays a various selection of music from past and present. The door prize is a trip for two to Florida. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5 and are available in the SAC office.

PITCH IN



Proposed plan helps accommodate influx of non-traditional students

By TANYA HVILIVITZKY
Staff Writer

Studies predict by the mid-1990s, 50 per cent of Ontario's college students will be over 25 years of age.

To accommodate the influx of students, many of whom will be returning from the workforce, community colleges must take a more flexible approach to educating adult learners.

The Ontario Council of Regents presented its recommendations for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) last month to Richard Allen, minister of colleges and universities.

If passed, PLA will be implemented in the 23 colleges across the province.

PLA will give adult learners credits for work experience, volunteer work, self-directed study and study at other educational institutions.

Aside from making colleges more accessible to adult learns, colleges will be more efficient through PLA by eliminating unnecessary retraining.

Not every student will have to start at year one, said Hilroy Thomas, senior policy analyst at the council.

The concept of PLA is not new to Ontario, said Thomas. "There has been a form of it for more than 11 years," he said. "But it is not in place at all the colleges so consistency does not exist.

"The new guidelines, if passed, will be system-wide so one college couldn't be any stricter than another," he said.

PLA is also not new to Niagara College, said Marti Jurmain, the college's director of Access to the Ventures division.

"(Niagara) has really done all this on an ohgoing basis. The council is formalizing and standardizing and setting firm guidelines.

"Colleges are miles ahead of the universities and high schools in giving credit. The high schools are coming along — universities have a long way to go," Jurmain said.

Students will pay the standard part-time fee per course. The level of public subsidy will be negotiated by the ministry.

"Many more mature students will be able to come to the college because of PLA," said David Schleich, the college's vice-president academics. "PLA in Ontario will really help those students who don't have the usual entrance qualifications."

Thomas said the council is hopeful a decision from the minister about PLA will be made by the new year. If passed, implementation could start by September 1993.

Vaccinations may be ineffective

By JENNIFER BARR
Staff Writer

People who received vaccinations against their measles, mumps and rubella before 1980 are advised to speak to their family doctors about updating their protection. Immunization is available at Niagara College's health centre for students and staff.

A vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella was found to be "not as effective" prior to 1980, said Janis Jackson, a public health nurse. As a precaution people are advised to obtain a vaccine update.

People who received a vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella before 1957 are said to have "adequate protection," said Jackson. Most people before then had the disease and built up an antibody to recognize the virus.

Past primary vaccines may be the reason for several outbreaks in the United States. "Outbursts cost money," said Caroline Hurst, Niagara College nurse.

Over 3,500 high school students in the Niagara Region must have immunization shots or face possible suspension. Students who need shots have been notified by letter. A verification form must be completed and returned to the Health Services department, said Moira Gallant, communicable disease program manager, in a press release.

Students are advised to take preventive measures against diseases such as measles, mumps and rubella. All three are acute, highly communicable viral diseases.

Sports exposure to increase

By TROY CLARKE
Staff Writer

The Ontario Colleges Athletic Association is starting a clipping service that will increase Ontario's community college varsity sports exposure throughout the province.

The association has asked that it be added to the mailing lists of all Ontario community colleges.

In a communique the association said it strives to promote, and give recognition to deserving athletes, coaches and teams. In addition, it said college newspapers would be exposed to a greater sports market.

Patty Shapton, the association's executive director, said the college sports coverage is good, and the writers will also get "well deserved credit."

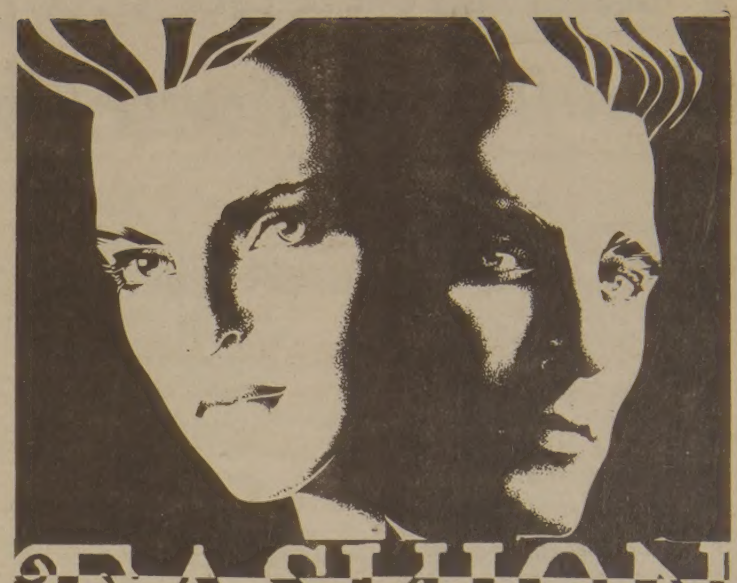
Shapton said Toronto Star sports reporter Mark Zwolinski requested the service.

Zwolinski said it is impossible for him to know what is happening at all colleges and "would like to keep abreast of what papers are writing out there."

He said if any of these teams come to the Toronto area there could possibly be a story.

However, Zwolinski said it is unlikely any of the writers will see their bylines in the Toronto Star.

The Niagara News has added the association to its mailing list.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